Daily Report

Latin America

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OAS Head Hopes Haiti Mission 'Possible by Weekend'

FL0802230993 Bridgetown CANA in English 2027 GMT 8 Feb 93

[By Corlita Ollivierre]

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, Feb 8, CANA—Secretary General of the Organisation of American States, Joao Clemente Baena Soares, believes a human rights monitoring mission may be visiting Haiti by weekend.

"My hope is that the new proposal sent by (special United Nations envoy) Dante Caputo to the Haiti Government will be accepted and that we would be able to have our mission there by the end of the week," Baena said here Monday at the opening of a major OAS conference. He said the UN envoy was expected to send fresh proposals to the Haitian authorities this week after they rejected a proposal last week for a joint UN/OAS human rights monitoring mission. Baena said they would not compromise on the freedom of the mission to undertake its task.

"What we cannot accept is some limitations on the activities of our mission, otherwise there is no sense sending anybody if (we) are going to be limited in our freedom of movement and our possibility of dealing with the people and hearing the people and discussing the human rights issue with some national organisations there."

He rejected charges that the organisation had failed because of its inability to as yet bring about a political solution to the Haitian situation since the military overthrow of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991.

"The simple fact that we still discuss Haiti is very much important," the secretary general noted, adding that in the past the Haitian delegates to a meeting such as the current one would have been representatives of dictatorships. The fact that the Haitian delegates to the OAS conference are representatives of Aristide "makes a very big difference," Baena said.

He lauded the prompt response of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) for co-operation on the mission and expressed hope that the Caricom presence on the mission would be large.

"We are there to create a first circumstance.... The presence of the mission is not an end in itself; it is a means to do something else which is, to find a political solution to the Haitian crisis."

Meeting on Nuclear Technology Ends in Chile

PY0602123193 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 1 Feb 93 p C2

[Text] A planning meeting of the program "Regional Cooperative Agreements for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America" (ARCAL) has ended in Santiago. ARCAL depends on the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency].

The Santiago meeting was organized by the "ARCAL Strategic Planning and Development" working group, the objective of which was to study the regional information and background that will help achieve a greater "projection in the productive system of the technological capacity in the nuclear area."

The following issues were discussed at the meeting: opportunities to transfer technology in the nuclear area and detection of opportunities for technological transfer in the productive area.

Meeting participants also analyzed research and development from the point of view of its incorporation into the national and regional economic cycle, and strategies for the use of nuclear and radioactive know-how and installations existing in the region.

ARCAL currently comprises 15 countries: Argentina, Bolivia,)Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Venezuela.

The ARCAL program is based on the idea of cooperation among the participating countries.

On sharing the available infrastructure, including laboratories, equipment, and experts, ARCAL has encouraged regional efforts, which have given birth to regional financing for expenditures resulting from project activities.

The organization is also helping to find the necessary financial support for the implementation of projects, either by channeling their own resources or by obtaining them from other countries or institutions. For instance, Canada, the EEC, the United States, France, Italy, Germany, and Sweden have supported ARCAL projects.

Central American Integrated System Holds Meeting

PA0302225293

[Editorial Report] San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish at 1715 GMT on 1 February broadcasts a 16-minute recorded report on the swearing in ceremony of Honduran Roberto Herrera Caceres, first secretary general of the Central American Integrated System, SICA.

Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano gives a speech in which he says Central American integration, based on political integration, was considered in the last century by his political ancestors. Serrano says SICA's goal is to spark anew the political interests of the region's presidents in Central American integration. He says: "The national and international community can rest assured that the intent of the six presidents who signed the SICA Tegucigalpa Protocol is to create one large nation, in

which the nations that make up the region are subsidiaries that complement each other." Serrano concludes by saying he hopes Costa Rica and Panama will soon be totally integrated into SICA.

Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani speaks next. He says Central American integration "is necessary for the construction of a society in which there is balanced economic development aimed at breaking the underdevelopment barrier, thereby paving the way toward the elimination of extreme poverty." Cristiani says Central American integration is now more important than ever because of sheer necessity, given the number of world trading blocs, to provide "true negotiating power." Cristiani adds that Central American integration will offer a 25 million person market to North America, Europe, and other Latin American nations, allowing the region to "generate more jobs, export more products, receive better prices for our exports, and improve our income." Concluding, President Cristiani says the future of Central America lies in integration, which he is certain will be a reality before the end of the century.

In a two-minute recorded report broadcast by San Salvador Canal Doce Television at 0300 GMT on 2 February, Herrera Caceres is quoted saying that SICA is a first step toward "respect for a state of law, the prevalence of democracy, and the promotion of respect for human rights" in the region.

Deputy Foreign Ministers Meet

PA2701162993 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] On 26 January, Honduran Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata and the seven Central American deputy foreign ministers met in San Salvador to analyze the Central American Integration System [SICA] organization and budget.

Salvadoran Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Orlando Valdivieso pointed out that the SICA budget and organization were the only two items included on the agenda of the meeting, which official sources had initially reported would be held at the foreign ministry level.

SICA was created by the Tegucigalpa Protocol during the presidential summit that took place in Honduras. It constitutes the institutional framework of the Central American integration process. SICA, however, awaits ratification by the Costa Rican and Panamanian legislatures.

Jose Bernard Pallais and Carlos Jimenez Licona, deputy foreign ministers of Nicaragua and Guatemala, respectively, also participated in the meeting with Carias Zapata and Valdivieso, as did officials representing the Costa Rican and Panamanian governments.

Andean Countries Increase Trade by 17 Percent

PA2801220093 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2338 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Lima, 27 Jan (NOTIMEX)—It has been reported that commercial transactions between the Andean group countries increased 17.9 percent in 1992, compared with 1991. The commercial transactions amounted to $2.120 billion in 1992.

Colombian Manuel Cardenas, who is the Cartagena Agreement Board (Junac) coordinator, asserted in Lima on 27 January that the amount exported is a "historic record" in the subregional integration organization's 23 years of existence.

Trade between Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela has multiplied more than 22 times since 1969, and the annual average growth rate is 14 percent, Cardenas said at a news conference.

He highlighted that manufactured products represented 83 percent of the sales among the Andean countries.

Cardenas added that the growth of subregional commerce in 1992 is largely due to the fact that the mechanisms were determined and a free trade zone had been established in the Andean group countries.

He said he believed growth will continue to increase substantially in 1993, once the process to establish the free trade zones is concluded in the latter part of January and when the common import tariff is approved at a meeting to be held in Caracas on 15 and 16 February 1993.

Junac coordinator Cardenas, an official of the technical organization that stemmed from the Cartagena agreement, emphasized that in absolute terms, trade between Andean countries in 1992 had surpassed by $320 million the amount registered in 1991, which was $1.799 billion.

According to Junac computer information, Colombia was the country with the highest exports in the subregion. It averaged $83 million of exports a month in 1992—a $65-million increase from the amount it exported the previous year.

The estimated value of Colombian exports to its regional partners is close to $1 billion, which is almost 50 percent of the total interregional transactions.

For Colombia, the structure of the Andean export market has not changed in recent years. It represents approximately 56 percent of its sales, including 27 percent to Peru and 16 percent to Ecuador.

Venezuela has the second level of importance in Andean trade and shows the highest export growth rate in the subregion. This includes 30 percent to Bolivia and Colombia and 14 percent to Peru.

Junac information indicates that, without including exports of petroleum and its by-products, Venezuela

exported approximately $40 million during the first nine months of 1992 and increased its average to $58 million during the last three months of 1992.

In Bolivia's case, its exports to the subregion surpassed $96 million in 1992, which represented a 17 percent growth rate.

The information shows that Ecuador registered a drop in its exports, especially to Peru (-48.8 percent), a country that has traditionally been its main market.

However, Ecuador registered a monthly export average of $11 million during the first nine months of 1992, and increased it to more than $16 million in products sent to the rest of Andean countries by the end of that year.

Peru, which suspended the implementation of the Andean Pact trade opening program from 26 August to December 1992, registered monthly exports that on an average amounted to more than $22 million in 1992; an amount similar to the one registered in 1991.

Peru increased its sales to Bolivia and Venezuela. In the latter case, its exports reached 44 percent, which is equivalent to $117 million, in 1992.

Peru decreased its exports to Colombia and Ecuador by 30 and 12 percent respectively. Its sales to Colombia went down from $114 million in 1991 to $79 million and with Ecuador they dropped from $47 million to $41 million.

Manuel Cardenas believes that despite Peru's temporary separation, the Cartagena agreement is "in one of its better moments" and that is why they will now give priority to relations with third countries, "in accordance with international reality and with the economic blocs of great importance."

He highlighted that his first objective is to get closer to Mexico and Chile, countries with which Junac has already advanced negotiations for a commercial agreement.

Cuba

Fidel Castro Speech on Candidacy Process

FL0902020093 Havana Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 2319 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at a meeting of Havana City Province government and mass organization officials held at the Lazaro Pena Theater in Havana on 6 February—recorded]

[Text] [Castro] Dear comrades: First of all I want to apologize for having held such a large meeting in light of the difficulties with transportation, the date, and the time, but I thought it was important. I have attended several of the sessions. I wanted to know how the process was coming along. I asked myself what I could do to contribute to your effort in Havana's battle. I would like, for example, to accompany some groups of candidates, make a tour, do something, but it is practically impossible, not only for physical reasons, but also because of time and work constraints. I was telling myself: Well, what are the most vulnerable, weakest (?points), the greatest difficulties in the campaign? What can we do to join forces, march together, march with discipline in the same direction? What are the determining factors in this struggle?

This is why I asked the opinion of several comrades: Who should participate in this meeting? We began to analyze this. First, all the district delegates. [Jorge] Lezcano, what is the exact number? How many? There are 1,495. I estimated between 1,300 and 1,500 as the number of comrades elected on 20 December. Of course, the candidates to deputies of the National Assembly should also be present as well as the candidates to delegates of the provincial assemblies. It is essential for every municipal and provincial electoral commission to be present. It is essential for the mass organizations to be present. I am not going to ask if there are members of the national organizations present, because I was told they are not present. I regret this. Probably the subjects discussed here also would have been important to them.

We were trying to get an estimate to decide where to hold this meeting. At first, I thought the meeting could have been held in the auditorium where the Central Committee and other meetings are held. It has approximately 300 seats, but it was not possible. Later on, we thought of using the Karl Marx Theater, but after we did a tally, that theater was too large. We wanted to hold a more relaxed meeting, a working meeting, not a large ceremony. I thought of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] auditorium and asked how many seats it had and whether there was room for all the participants. Finally, we concluded that the CTC auditorium was the right place. I believe we have here a little more than 3,000 comrades.

Yesterday, I met with the participants in the Latin American teachers' conference, entitled Education 93. I saw that theater once more. It is immense. For some reason this place seems cozier and more appropriate for an intimate conversation. I wondered whether we should invite journalists. I would have liked them to be present, but this meeting was not for the media. Naturally, the role of the journalists is to report, and it would be a contradiction to ask them to attend but not to report on the event, because this is not a meeting for everybody. It is not that we are going to do something sinister here or anything like that. It is not that we are going to propose improper things that can not be publicly defended, but the nature of the meeting is that it is a work meeting to communicate with those who have the main responsibility in this battle. This is like a war. The general staff meets; the officers meet. Those are the ones who have to attend that meeting, and no one else, to analyze these issues. The media will report on this from the same angle or from whatever angle they believe is better. We have to analyze here the details of this battle, of this great challenge, as Lezcano said.

Where should we direct our efforts? I could begin by explaining that there has been strict and total compliance with the principles guiding this process, the principles agreed upon in the National Assembly meeting on constitutional reforms and the principles stipulated in the electoral law. We had already arrived at a concept, a basic idea, which is not new: the idea that the people nominate and the people elect.

I gave a lot of thought to the role of the party. The role of the party is not to nominate candidates. It is not for the party to nominate candidates. The role of the party is not to elect. The party does not elect candidates. We are very pleased that we have one party, just as the Mambises, the Cuban rebels, had during the final years of our wars for independence. We wondered what the party's role should be. We said: The role of the party is to direct the process and ensure that the principles of this process are strictly followed. This is the role of the party. Because we have faith in our ideas, we have faith in our principles, which are the most correct and most just. We realized this had to be the role of the party: To ensure the strict implementation of those principles. I am very pleased to report the party has fulfilled this role and has ensured compliance with those principles, so that the people will nominate and the people will elect.

The people have been nominating at the base level for some time. All of you know very well how the elections are carried out at the base level, how the candidates are nominated in the districts, in the neighborhood assemblies, with the participation of all those willing to participate. They are open assemblies. We wondered whether the counterrevolutionaries, the unpatriotic, those who serve imperialism, those who are against the Revolution and the fatherland and on imperialism's side, were going to participate or not. No one was stopping them from participating, discussing, or making nominations at the assemblies. But the Revolution has great moral strength, great authority, and great vigor, which the counterrevolution, the enemies of the fatherland, and the supporters of imperialism do not have.

For this reason, they did not come forth at the assemblies. The people met as usual. On this occasion, the people nominated with greater breadth, because before they had been asked not to nominate many comrades as district delegates due to the many responsibilities those comrades already had. It is well known that it is very difficult to juggle certain district delegate duties with certain national, provincial, or other types of duties they might have. Naturally, this limited the number of people nominated as district delegates. On this occasion there is much more breadth. The district elections were very close in many cases.

The party did not nominate anyone, favor anyone, or carry out a campaign in favor of anyone. This was the people's task. Our electoral law established the candidacy commissions. I think we came upon a very good solution which no other country has. Who nominates, or who is going to draft the candidacy proposals to be presented at the municipal assemblies? Before, the municipal assemblies elected the deputies. The fundamental change is that now, since someone has to make the nominations, our Constitution and laws gave to the municipal assemblies the role of nominating candidates. Therefore, those who have been nominated and elected directly by the people are not the ones who are going to elect the deputies.

This was perfectly just, perfectly acceptable, and perfectly, totally democratic. The system we had was democratic, but we wanted to perfect it, to make it even more democratic. Since someone had to make the nominations, this duty was given to the municipal assemblies. How is the nominating done? How do the municipal assemblies meet and nominate candidates? Municipal assemblies are very aware of many of the municipalities' problems. In some cases, many delegates are aware of not only municipal problems but also the problems of their districts. How could they nominate candidates to the National Assembly? It was necessary for other sectors to participate. This is how the idea came about for the mass organizations—representing the people, because the vast majority of our people belong to the mass organizations—to organize the task prior to the nomination process; that is, to draft the lists of candidates.

The candidacy commissions were formed by the mass organizations at the three levels—municipal, provincial, and national. Of course, we were setting a new course. What would the outcome be? No one knew or could have known, because it was totally new. We were basing this on a series of principles and ideas. It had to be subjected to the test of reality, the test of practice. The first thing we discovered was the enormity of the task assigned to the candidacy commissions. They made up the commissions themselves; the party did not. The mass organizations made up the candidacy commissions and appointed representatives at the national, provincial, and municipal levels. They drafted a work plan. We cannot say their ideas were perfect, because this was the first time this was put into practice. At one point, we realized that 12 delegates, or 12 representatives, of the mass organizations were too few to undertake that enormous task. We suggested that the candidacy commissions be expanded and that every organization send a number of members until it reached 36, so the national-level work could be divided among them. However, that was not enough. I believe that if anyone has worked harder than the contingents have, the comrades of the candidacy commissions have, particularly the members of the National Candidacy Commission. [applause]

On many occasions, their workday began at 0800 and ended at 0200 and 0300 the next day. They had to direct a consultation process, because as part of those principles, the consultation process was essential. It was not a matter of gathering together a group of comrades representing the mass organizations and then starting to develop ideas on how to draft the candidacy lists. Rather, an enormous number of people had to meet. First, they had to listen to the opinions of the mass organizations. Then they had to hear the opinions of the institutions, every possible institution, the work centers, the candidates for delegate, because the elections had not yet taken place when they started working, and it was not known who was going to be elected.

Therefore, they had to ask the opinion of every candidate nominated. They did so. They asked for their opinions on who should be a candidate. By the end, they had consulted over 1.5 million people. This has never happened before anywhere. In the rest of the world, the four fat cats who rule the parties meet and draft the lists of candidates. They do not consult with anyone else. Our candidacy commissions consulted 1.5 million people. I was told the pool of candidates that emerged from the consultation process totaled over 60,000 people, between 60,000 and 70,000 people. You can see the scope of the task of selecting candidates from among the thousands of people proposed.

They had to use certain methods to do this. They had to give participation to the base level, the municipalities, the provinces, and the nation. They had to choose from different sources. First, they had to choose the district delegates who were going to be proposed as candidates to deputies of the National Assembly, which according to the law is approximately half, or up to 50 percent. This requirement was the result of a very logical thing. If the members of the assembly were to nominate candidates, it was a matter of principle to establish a limit on the number of people they could nominate. An assembly could nominate people within that municipality and no one else. It was not possible. It was not consistent with the concept being implemented. But the principle that up to half of the nominees could be members of the assembly was established. Up to half of the base-level delegates could be members of the assembly.

The law established a category of candidates: the delegates coming straight from base level. The base level had to work on this. Who could provide the best opinions but the base level itself? The role of the organizations at the

base level, and the delegates' opinions, was decisive in selecting the candidates to delegates and later the delegates.

The commission also worked with the provincial commissions, because the other pool of candidates was made up of provincial-level figures. There, no one could give better opinions than the provinces themselves. Finally, national-level figures also had to be selected. They would be essential in the National Assembly, well-known people with important responsibilities, people who have distinguished themselves in national activities. Naturally, the national leadership of the mass organizations played an essential role in this. They made preliminary estimates of how many candidates would come from the base level, in accordance with the law; how many would come from the provincial level; and how many from the national level. The percentage of national-level candidates was the smallest.

They finally reached the conclusion that there would be 274 base-level candidates; approximately 180—I am not giving the exact figure, but around 180—provincial candidates; and approximately 134 or 135 so-called national candidates. I say so-called national candidates because there were provincial candidates who were well known on the national level. Therefore, you cannot say they are provincial-level figures. Yes, they come from the province, work in the province, and were nominated by the province because the province so chose. Sometimes it happened that a province had a major figure but did not nominate him or her because they thought that individual was going to be nominated at the national level.

Of course, each province hoped to have the greatest number of local figures on its list. The national figures were left so that the National Candidacy Commission would include them on its list as national candidates. This was not a trick, but it was a certain tendency that was taking place in some cases. Of course, this category for the National Candidacy Commission could vary. They established it themselves. They could pick fewer provincial candidates and more national candidates, or vice versa, more provincial candidates and fewer national candidates. No one knew what was going to happen, what was going to be the result of the consultation process.

I tried to keep informed of the progress of the whole process. I insisted on the idea of the consultations. I insisted that the consultations were essential and decisive, particularly the consultations with the base level. This is why the consultation process was held again. Thus, for example, the national commissions....[pauses] The national leadership of the mass organizations had proposed over 500 candidates during the consultations with the national leadership of the mass organizations. They had to reduce this to less than a third of the number they had proposed, or approximately 135. This was the opinion of the national leadership of the mass organizations.

However, there still was an unanswered question. What opinion do the people in the provinces have of these national figures? Those consultations had not been held yet. On 29, 30, and I believe 31 December, they met in plenary sessions with the mass organizations of all the provinces to ask them to provide the names of the national figures who in their opinion should be nominated. Some names arose which had not been included among the 500 or so names selected by the national commissions. Some new names arose. These consultations were very valuable, because through them the opinions of the provinces, of the provincial mass organizations, regarding the so-called national figures became known. This was very important information for the National Candidacy Commission. On the basis of this information, they had to make decisions.

The candidacy commissions also had to solve the issue of the resumes. You have no idea of how much work they did to collect so many resumes. They had the final task, within that continuous consultation process, of drafting the final list of 589 candidates to the National Assembly. This is what I have the most information on. What took place at lower levels to select the candidates to the provincial assemblies must have been similar, but it is impossible to know all that information. What was important was for the full consultation process to be completed. This took a lot of work and was an enormous responsibility. They discussed province by province and category by category. When they had any doubts they held further consultations and asked the provincial level again, and the municipal level again.

The first task was how to reduce that immense pool of candidates. They held other consultations. They asked the provinces to please tell them which, in their opinion, of the large number of candidates proposed should be kept if the number was reduced to half or a third. Every province, of course, had presented many more possible candidates than could be included on the list. The provinces gave their opinions. The reductions were done by the provinces themselves. They had to take that immense pool, and on the basis of the information gathered during the consultation process, reduce the list of candidates all the way down to 589. This task, comrades, was not easy at all. We have to acknowledge the extraordinary merit of the National Candidacy Commission in accomplishing this task.

Next, they had to prepare the list of alternate candidates. Not only did they have to make a list of official candidates, but they also had to make a list of alternate candidates in case any candidate was rejected by the assembly. They had to have other candidates ready. For this reason, they drew up lists of alternates at the base, provincial, and national levels. This was a complex and difficult job. They also had to prepare the resumes not only of the official candidates but also of the alternate candidates. They also had to review the biographies to give them a certain uniformity. They had to reduce them

to a certain amount of space, a number of lines. They had to include the highest possible number of facts about the individuals.

But as you know, with these kinds of candidacies, all kinds of people appear, of all different ages. A 55-year-old person and a 20 or 19 or 18 year old have not accumulated the same merits. Naturally, the students had to be represented. They also had to be included in this entire consultation process. There had to be represented for the various important sectors of the nation. This was a factor they had to keep in mind. The list of candidates to the National Assembly could not be drawn up without a single student from the FEEM [Federation of Secondary School Students]. There are FEEM students with great merits and abilities who are not candidates because they are not old enough to be candidates. It was discovered that the right to vote started at age 16, but they had to be 18 to be a deputy. They had excellent cadres under age 18, and they could not be nominated.

But they had to nominate people who were 18, 19, or 20, and the resume of a comrade of 18 or 19 was not like the resume of a comrade of 40, 50, or 60. They had done everything possible during their short lives, and the others had done everything possible during their long lives. But, well, those students had to provide the greatest amount of information possible so that their resumes would not be too short. Those who had done many things during their lives had to summarize as much as possible since all their lifetime merits could not be listed. The resumes had to be one page long. When information was lacking, they had to search it out, make telephone calls, do research. They had to become writers, or even poets, because writing a resume is not at all easy. They had to ask for help. They asked for help from some journalists in drawing up that lengthy list of resumes in such a short time.

I repeat once more, this was a road we were traveling on for the first time. It is said that one makes the road by walking, but we were walking on it for the first time. There was not even a trail to follow. They had to have the candidates with their resumes, and the list of alternates with their resumes, ready to be presented to the provincial assemblies on 25, I think it was 25, or 24 January, Sunday, 24 January. They had to have all that ready. I know they were working up to the last day and the last hour to finish that extremely difficult and complex job. You cannot imagine what it was like. It must serve as an experience for the future.

Of course, this could be prolonged under the circumstances we are experiencing. With all the tasks the country has at this time, no one could afford to prolong this entire process for one more month. Because if we did, there would be no cold-season planting, or sugar harvest, or anything else in this country, since thousands and tens of thousands of cadres have been involved and are involved in this process, and they also have to carry out other obligations. You can calculate how much work this was and also calculate the feat they have accomplished in reaching the second phase, which was the presentation of the candidates.

No one could then affirm, and no one will ever be able to affirm, that work of this kind is perfect. That is impossible. The work is not perfect. But I am a witness to the fact that the effort that was made was the maximum effort that could have been made to do a good job, and it was as perfect as possible. It cannot be free of mistakes. That is impossible. The process could be even more perfect. That is possible. But it would have been impossible to do better what has been done, in the time in which it was done. It would have been impossible to do more. That is how the lists of candidates for the National Assembly were drawn up. I repeat that I do not know, I cannot talk about all the details with respect to the candidates for delegates of the provincial assemblies, but I imagine they are more or less similar. The two elections have been put together; they had to be put together.

But after that, a terrible problem arose for the candidacy commissions: where to place the candidates. Where should they be placed? Because they had to be placed somewhere. There was no problem with the base-level candidates. They live there; they were elected by the districts and municipalities. That did not create any problem. But the candidates from the provincial and national levels, in the so-called national category, had to be placed. Where were they to be placed? Everything possible was done to place them within a municipality, or something that had to do with a municipality, where they had been born or worked sometime or something.

But it was impossible. Because naturally a lot of very deserving people come from certain parts of the country, and there are not enough places for all those provincial and national candidates there. Whatever was possible was done to associate the candidates with a place, but this was impossible for some of them. There are many municipalities....[pauses] As you know, each municipality has the right to at least two deputies. There are small municipalities that have the right to two. One was necessarily from there, and the other necessarily had to be from somewhere else. But there are people from Havana—because a lot of well-known people live in Havana—who had to go somewhere else. They live here, but could not be candidates where they live. It was impossible if there (?were already) candidates there.

I know a cadre from Havana City, a very young cadre, who is a FEEM candidate who was born in Havana and was nominated for a small town in the eastern region. Well, there they wondered: Why are they bringing in one from Havana? But that FEEM cadre, who has a lot merit and prestige, has to be nominated for a municipality. Where were they going to put a young person of 18 or 19 in Havana City, where they did not know him and could not know him or his background? The candidacy commission had to persuade, and know how to persuade, those people about why that person should be a candidate there. Because there was a proportion of base-level

candidates, another proportion of provincial candidates, and another proportion of national candidates, and it was impossible to solve that puzzle, which was already so complicated in and of itself. It was not possible to make each piece fit exactly and perfectly into its own municipality.

That has to be explained. Because of our concept and our system, it was impossible for each candidate to be a figure in his exact municipality. This happened, but it only happened when nothing else could have been done. The candidacy commission also had well-known people to distribute, and it could not put together all the people who were well known and very famous. It had to distribute them, and say: One famous person for this place. The same thing happened as with the student. They put another famous person in another place, and some other famous person in some other place, and so they distributed them. Because the problems do not arise with the more well-known candidates. The problems arise with the less well-known candidates. That is the primary reason for these cases that require explanation.

The primary problem in these elections, in my opinion, is teaching people how to vote. Teaching people how to vote is key. Comrade Lezcano explained the difficulties, because people know one style of voting in the districts, where there were two, three, four, five, or even eight candidates and they had to vote for one. Now it is the reverse. They have two, three, four, or five candidates—for the provincial assembly there are more sometimes—and they can vote for all of them. They can vote for all of them. [repeats] This is exactly the opposite of the voting system for the districts.

This is why it has such great value. Because when we decided at the congress to have direct election of the deputies, the most serious danger that could arise with this system was divisiveness, struggle, and competition between the candidates. We wanted to prevent politicking at all costs, at all costs. [repeats] We wanted to have a fair process, truly fair, and make the person's merits, resume, qualities, and representativeness the primary factor. Because when we talk about a very young man, we cannot talk so much about his merits, many of which are yet to be obtained during his life, or about what he has been able to do. But he is representative. He represents the students of the FEEM or FEU [Federation of University Students], or young people.

It was necessary that any modest, humble, ordinary citizen could be a deputy of the National Assembly. We had to guarantee that, and if we did not guarantee that, we could never talk about democracy. [applause] If a man or woman has great merits, has given extraordinary service to the country, they should have the right to be a deputy. If they have great talent, along with those merits, they should have the right to be a deputy, even though they are not well known. [applause] So we did not want to set up competition, and elect five out of ten. What a terrible struggle that would have started! What chance to be elected would those who have great merit but are not very well known have? What opportunity would we have to elect base-level delegates who have great merits but are only known in a small region, in a district or a people's council? We cannot forget that there are municipalities in which 50,000 or more than 50,000 people vote. What opportunity would those comrades have in competition like that? And if our [National] Assembly does not have deputies from the base level, we cannot talk about democracy. [applause]

That is what distinguishes our Assembly from the other assemblies in the world. [In the other assemblies] they are all very well-known national figures, but a city councilman, for example, can never be a deputy. They do not have the slightest chance. A local leader does not have the slightest chance of being a deputy. Not only because of the party system, because the parties alone, meeting around a table, draw up the lists of candidates. Then depending on the number of votes each party gets—and they more or less know that from surveys—the ones they put in the number one, two, and three spots are the ones who are elected, and all the rest are filler candidates. We did not want to have filler candidates, but rather good candidates, with equal chances of being elected. All should have the same chance, even if some were not very well known. Because you know very well that there are comrades who are very well known and others who are not well known.

There may be a very eminent scientist who has worked quietly for years whose talents are not known. The electoral commissions also had to work on this. What did they do in these cases? They were not guided so much by popularity or the number of times a person had been nominated. Rather, they went to the science institutes and asked. They went to the sciences centers and asked. They went to the work places. They went to see all the people who had information about the scientist and his merits and they asked them.

But in another kind of election they would not have any chance of being elected. Now, when the opportunity is given to vote for all of them, for five instead of one, no rights are being taken away from the citizens. More rights are being given to them. They are not being given one vote. They are being given five or six votes. There are municipalities where they have to elect eight. They are not being given one vote but eight. One candidate does not fight another for that vote. The citizens are not put in the dilemma of voting for one and not another who is also good. They are given the opportunity to vote for one, two, three, or all of them if they think all of them have merit. Rights are not taken away from the citizens; they are given more rights.

But there is a number of seats equal to the list of candidates. Why? Because all of them have a seat in the legislature, they all have the right to a seat in the legislature, they all have the right to a seat in the *provincial assembly, if they get 50* percent of the votes plus one. The citizens have the right to vote for all of

them, and all of them can win if they get 50 percent of the valid votes plus one, as the law says.

So nothing is being taken away from the citizens. Something is being given to them. Competition is eliminated. The dangers of politicking are eliminated. You can imagine what a battle there would be, because those who are nominated would want to be elected, out of a basic sense of honor and a sense of responsibility. Instead of perfecting our democratic system, we would corrupt it if we accepted any other procedure. There are as many candidates as there are seats in the National Assembly, and as many candidates as there are seats in the provincial assemblies. So they can all be elected if they get more than 50 percent, or half of the votes plus one. But they say you are not supposed to say half plus one, but more than 50 percent. I do not know what the mathematical reason is. It could always happen that there could be a fraction. I did not make up that formula, so I do not take responsibility for it. But I said more than half the votes, or more than 50 percent of the votes. That was the requirement that was established.

We were seeking as perfect a system as possible, as democratic as possible, as fair as possible, and as revolutionary as possible, even though it is complex and difficult and even though it takes an effort to understand. Well, it takes an effort now because it is the first time. I already know a lot of people who understand it. I am not as surprised that there are still many people who do not understand it as I am surprised that there are many people who already understand it.

I am explaining to you the reasons for the things that were done and how they were done and why they were done. So we must first of all teach people to vote. Now, if the votes are divided, the consequences could be very negative, if the votes are scattered. The revolutionary and patriotic votes should not be divided. They should not be scattered, because then we could commit a tremendous injustice. If people say: I am going to choose from among the ones I know, we would eliminate the chances for a large number of deputies from the base level to be elected. The most well-known ones because of their jobs, their duties in society, their (?background) in the Revolution, would have better chances. But the district delegates who were elected district delegates for the first time, and it was thought to be a good idea to nominate them and include them in the list of candidates even though they were not very well known, if they are in a municipality with 30,000 voters, what are their chances of being elected? Now, if the revolutionary and patriotic votes, of those who are most steadfast and consistently with the Revolution, is divided and scattered, the chances for the delegates from the base level to be elected would drop considerably, because they are less well known, for logical reasons.

If by chance there is a Politburo member who is very well known—his life, his background, the times he has been in the paper—or the party first secretary for the province who is very well known, or a famous intellectual or artist, or a famous journalist who is very well-known through the mass media, what happens to a scientist who has great merit and is not very well known, or an innovator who has extraordinary merit and is very well known only at his work place or at the national [spare parts] forums? I know people who have extraordinary merit to be National Assembly deputies but are not well known, and many citizens, especially at the base level, who have great talent and ability, but they are known only in their small area and not throughout the municipality.

Because getting 15,000, 20,000, or 25,000 votes is very difficult. Now if we punish a man because we do not know him, and take away his chance of being elected, the result would be....[pauses] If there is not a united vote, if the patriotic, revolutionary vote is not united, if each person selects according to his own particular taste, he will be acting to the detriment of the election of many of his comrades, which would cause other problems. We would have to look for other candidates. We would have to see if those other candidates are better known, and the revolutionary election in our country is not to elect well-known people but to elect people with merit, quality people, capable people, patriotic people, and revolutionary people. [applause]

The elections are not a popularity contest. They are in any case a contest of merit and a contest of ability. If I as a revolutionary have the right to vote for five, why would I vote for one? Why would I vote for one just because he is better known, because he is my neighbor whom I see almost every day and know? I have to have faith in the process. I have to have faith in the principles we are applying. I have to have faith in the judgment of the candidacy commissions. I have to have faith in the judgment of the assemblies that nominated them, the assembly members who were asked their opinions when they were candidates and afterwards. That was what happened, with a few exceptions.

I think that in perfecting our system the day has to come when we will hear the opinion of each and every one there about everything concerning the base-level delegates, because they are the ones who know the most about the base-level delegates. I admit that the candidacy commissions can make mistakes. I admit that an assembly can make a mistake. That can be admitted. We would be utopians if we thought that it was impossible to make mistakes and that everything has been perfect. But we have to have faith in the good faith, honesty, good judgment, and principles with which they have worked. Of course, I think that the candidacy commissions have sent their first string into battle, the comrades who in their opinion had the greatest abilities, the greatest qualities. It does not mean that the others do not have them. They are in reserve, and there are thousands more, because it is very difficult to measure exactly the difference there may be between the merit of one person and another.

But in their opinion they have sent forth the best. When an election has to be repeated by any method....[pauses]

You know the powers the Constitution and laws give to the Council of State to hold more elections in those cases with this same direct method, or assign the task to the municipal assembly, or declare the seats vacant. But we really are not in a position, comrades, to be holding repeat elections. I think that when the elections are over on 24 February, with so many tens of thousands of people involved and working on them, we must turn to carrying out the infinite number of extremely urgent vital tasks that the country has to carry out.

So a victory on 24 February would mean, in general, in general [repeats]—there may always be some exceptions—that the candidates on the lists have been elected. I do not want to know what hellish work the candidacy commissions would have to do to find more candidates who would in turn be elected, when they have presented all those who in their opinion are the best for these lists of candidacy, and if the same problems occurred. That is why it is so important to teach people to vote, and not only to teach people to vote, but to persuade the voters that what is best for the country is a united vote of revolutionaries and patriots, and not a divided, scattered vote. The citizens must be persuaded that a scattered vote will harm the process, that a divided or scattered vote is not what is best for the country. That is not what is best for the nation. That is not what is best for the Revolution.

The country must adopt these candidates, who have been selected with such scrupulousness, honesty, and care. They have been selected by virtue of principles and not influence, in a process where all the requirements have been carried out to the letter.

That is what would be a real triumph of our concept of elections and our concept of democracy. It is a luxury that our country can afford and that very few countries in the world can afford. That is why we have these two issues: teaching people how to vote and defending a united vote, defending it with principles, telling every citizen: This is what is best for the country, the Revolution, and the nation. You are free to do what you think is right. We respect your right. You can vote for one, two, or three [candidates] if you want. In other words, we respect your right. But this is what is good for the country, the nation, and the Revolution.

Of course, we must appeal to our citizens' spirit of unity and solidarity, their revolutionary and patriotic spirit. I have not mentioned here the attitude that may be adopted by those who are not with our Revolution, those who want Cuba to become another Miami, those who want Cuba to become a Yankee colony, those who want the Revolution to be destroyed, those who want the Revolution not to resist or not be able to resist. That is another attitude, and I can imagine what they will do. They will not vote. They will nullify their ballots. They will invent things that in one way or another will hurt us. But it is clear that they will not vote for the best- known cadres of the Revolution. They will not vote for the cadres with the best background. That is for certain.

But that is not what concerns us, because the best-known candidates have the best chance of being elected, because we know how our people think and feel. We have faith in the patriotic and revolutionary spirit of our people, and that our people will rise to the occasion in this fight, this battle, which is an important battle of the special period. Because we still have the entire special period ahead of us, and it is best for us to be a united country. It is best for us to be a strong country. It is best for us to have a solid process, which inspires the respect of the nation's enemies and the Revolution's enemies. [applause]

We want them to see a united people. We want them to see a determined people. I said before, of course, that we must distinguish between recalcitrant counterrevolutionaries and those who might be mistaken or confused. We must enlighten those who may be mistaken. We must get those who may be mistaken to overcome their error and confusion. We must recruit them, win them over. We cannot give up trying to win the good will of a single citizen.

Therefore, three things must be done. First, we must persuade them to vote, wage the battle so that they will vote. We must teach them to vote. We must urge them to vote united and not scatter and divide the vote. We must win over everyone who can be won over. We must win support for the people's candidacy from all those who can be won, all those who can be persuaded. This is one of the very important political tasks that we must do. We are not going to leave those who are confused for the enemy to confuse even more. We must muster all our patience and intelligence, and use the infinite number of arguments the Revolution has. Above all, we must make them see what is at stake during this special period. What is at stake is the Revolution, socialism, the fatherland, and the existence of the nation, for which entire generations have fought for more than 100 years. What is at stake is very sacred, too sacred to act without thinking, to act irresponsibly.

Now, those that cannot be convinced, let them remain unconvinced. But they should not remain unconvinced because of a lack of effort on our part. It does not matter what they think. We have important political work to do with all citizens. This is a task of the Revolution, a new task, we could say, arising out of this process of perfecting our electoral system. I understand you often have to have a lot of patience in order to discuss things. But we must have patience. We must have a lot of patience to try to persuade them, but we must try to persuade them. We cannot let the enemy be the one to do the work.

Now, who should to do this work? The entire people must do it, the entire people. [applause] Lezcano said that the electoral commissions are going to go house to house to explain how to vote, to read the resumes, and all that. Allow me to say that the resumes are very important, of course, but not everyone here reads the resumes. We cannot rely on everyone reading the resumes, on 20,000 people reading and studying them and voting in accordance with the candidates' merits. We must not

forget that not all the resumes are the same, as I said before. There are people to whom life has given opportunities to do great things. But now, we cannot make comparisons between an 18 year old from the FEEM and a comrade who participated in the attack on the Moncada Barracks, and was on the Granma, in the Sierra Maestra, or carried out many other tasks or missions.

Many comrades would have been among the candidates if they had not been killed in the struggle. Camilo [Cienfuegos] would have been among the candidates, [applause] Che [Guevara] would have been among the candidates. [applause] Dozens and dozens of brilliant comrades would be among the candidates if they had not given their lives for the Revolution. [applause] But we cannot compare Camilo's life history with that of an 18-year-old student, with the members of the FEEM or the FEU. There are not a lot of them, but there are few that are candidates, and for very good reason and very rightly. They play a very important role in our society. They are revolutionaries and have talents and qualities in the same way municipal cadres or outstanding women's leaders have been elected.

There have been a large number of worker cadres elected, which pleases us a lot. This list the National Candidates Commission has presented is very representative, and it has been approved by the municipalities. But of course, for all the merits they have, there are many comrades who are not well known. We cannot rely on people voting for them just because their resumes are available. We must ask how many people have read them and how many people have read them carefully to make a just decision. How many will understand that the resume of a young person cannot be compared with a comrade who has dozens of years of service to the Revolution? How many can understand that a base-level delegate cannot have the same resume as another revolutionary figure, but nevertheless is an excellent cadres who is going to represent his district residents in the National Assembly.

That is one of the best things about our National Assembly that other assemblies do not have. As I said before, those people at the base-level are represented there. Now, are we going to believe that because he was elected as a district delegate and has personal merit, he is going to obtain the 15,000 or 20,000 votes that he needs? How is he going to obtain them if we revolutionaries do not vote for him, if we patriots do not vote for him, if all those of us who want to defend the nation and the Revolution and have faith in our principles and the process through which he has been nominated, do not vote for him? In that case, we could not have the kind of assembly we want.

That is why I have told you and summarized these very important things. We must make them vote. We must teach them to vote. We must persuade them that they must vote en masse for the people's candidates. We must persuade all those who can be persuaded; all those who have even a single fiber of patriotism, revolutionary spirit, and fairness. We must persuade them. We have to wage this political battle. We will be acting within the principles that we have agreed upon. We will be acting in the cleanest process that has ever been carried out. We will be waging an extremely important battle during the special period.

Yes, this is a challenge. What country would have had the courage to hold the elections we are holding under these special period conditions? What greater proof could there be of our faith in the people? What greater proof could there be of our faith in the abilities of the revolutionaries, the morale and spirit of the revolutionaries?

Who must wage this battle? We must. In the first place, all of us, the vanguard, all revolutionaries. That is why I have said that all of us must teach everyone to vote. Everyone must help to persuade everyone of what they must do and the way they must do it. I said that the visits of the electoral commissions are not enough. There are the revolutionaries, the revolutionary activists, the members of the mass organizations, who must also wage the battle house by house. We cannot leave these tasks to the electoral commissions. The electoral commissions are for technical tasks. The people must carry out the political tasks. They must visit the neighbors, visit others, visit relatives, who is slightly discontent and does not understand, who is furious about one thing or another, and try to persuade them in the name of the values and the moral authority the Revolution represents.

So this is a task of the members of the mass organizations and a task of the revolutionary members of the Communist Party of Cuba and the Union of Young Communists. They also must wage this battle house by house and person by person. When has such a large army of revolutionary activists ever been gathered together for elections? The whole process has been completed and all the principles have applied, which fortunately have been fulfilled.

Now there is still the battle of 24 February, a very symbolic day on which our final fight for independence began. That battle is still to come, and for all these reasons that we have explained, it is the most complex and difficult one. But I am certain we will be victorious. [applause] If we are confronting the special period with an unshakeable spirit, if we are willing to resist imperialism in all spheres, how could we not fight against imperialism, and its corrupt ideology, its reactionary ideology, in the battle of the elections, in the battle of 24 February? That day all our capacity for organization and struggle will be tested. All the revolutionary assets we carry inside, all the history our people have written will be tested. This is in our favor, because we are defending the Revolution, socialism, the fatherland, and the nation. [applause]

We are fighting for the same things our compatriots fought for in 1868 and 1895, and the struggle of our workers throughout the history of our country colonized

by imperialism. We are fighting for the same things we fought for at Moncada, on the Granma, in the Sierra Maestra, in the Escambray. We are defending the same things we defended during the October missile crisis. We are defending the same things our glorious and victorious internationalist missions defended. [applause] We are defending the principles for which we have never surrendered, when so many others have surrendered. [applause] We are defending the principles for which we are willing to give our lives. We are defending the principles for which we are undertaking the special period. We are defending the principles for which we are writing one of the most glorious pages of history.

What nation has been capable of doing what we are doing, here 90 miles from the United States and when the socialist bloc has collapsed and disappeared? We have been able to stand firm and continue moving forward. We are upholding our banners; we are not taking them down; we are not surrendering them. We are ready to continue fighting until victory. We are defending these principles, our nation's honor, our people's honor, our generations' honor, and the revolutionaries' honor. There are quite a few of us revolutionaries. There are many more revolutionaries than counterrevolutionaries in this country. [applause]

We have not only quantity but quality, and this is the spirit we must carry into the battle of 24 February, so that Marti will be proud of us. [applause]

Socialism or death, fatherland or death, we will win! [applause]

Raul Castro Tours Guantanamo Border Brigade

FL0602160993 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1501 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Army General Raul Castro has toured the border brigade that guards the nation's territory from any provocation that may come from the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay. His route around the perimeter of the base began at the highest elevation, where the enemy guard posts can be seen with the naked eye, and with specialized equipment one can see down to the last detail of the area usurped by the Yankees.

Accompanied by Border Brigade Chief Colonel Perez Chacon and others, Raul identified the characteristics of the installations, including the airstrips on both sides of the entrance to Guantanamo Bay. For the arrogant Yankees, this piece of our land was nothing more than soil and water to be set aside as they do in Africa to conserve beasts and in the United States to confine the indigenous population.

Someone commented during the tour made by Revolutionary Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro of the Guantanamo Border Brigade that in the last few months Bush had made the naval base a brutal reservation for Haitians who had tried to flee from hunger and tyranny. What he saw confirmed that our people have lived up to the heroic teachings of their ancestors, and that future generations will defend our glorious ancestral traditions with the same heroism.

Raul also visited the tunnel systems, where he talked with combatants of different military specialties, including those who maintain and prepare for combat the Border Brigade's armored vehicles. His visit to a ward of the underground hospital was of particular interest. Vilma Espin and Raul held lively conversations with combatants who were recovering their health.

In his tour of the Guantanamo Border Brigade, Raul Castro, the second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba, praised the all-female company for their discipline and high combat spirit, especially for having taken care of all the marching groups in the recent parade in Mariana Grajales Square.

The tour of the nation's front-line anti-imperialist trench concluded. The participants left with a renewed feeling of continuity and future, and the feeling that our children and grandchildren will also be able to defend the integrity of our country, which today under Fidel's leadership arouses the respect and admiration of the world's nations for its steadfastness and principles. They also left with the conviction that this land will be returned to the sacred heritage of the Cuban nation.

Fidel Castro Visits Santiago de Cuba Province

FL0902025493 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro today visited the settlement of Boniato, an area for which he was nominated as a candidate for deputy. That area is part of Electoral District No. 7 North, Cobre-Boniato-Santiago de Cuba.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Commander, you spoke recently about the role the candidacy commissions had played. But what do you think of the publicity the candidates have been given through the media and due to their own efforts? [Castro laughs]

[Reporter] A kind of commercial, right?

[Castro] (?You) have really had very little time. I know you have done all you can, through the media, but you do not have much paper. For example, the press cannot do much. The radio can do quite a lot, because it does not have the limitations of the press. Television can do quite a lot, because although it may not have many programs, these programs have a large audience, and a lot of attention is paid to them. And we have the provincial television stations. I hear news reports by you people all the time. We also have the national television. They have done quite a lot.

Also, the candidates are touring around. Of course, for me it was very pleasant to hear the news of the reception the candidates have gotten here during the tour they

made this afternoon over there in the Cobre area through the hospital, and everywhere [words indistinct].

[Reporter] (?What do you think) the experiences (?are worth) for the next such process?

[Castro] Well, we are acquiring them now. This is new. I was asking [Esteban] Lazo: Lazo, what can we do? Where do we start? What does our work consist of? Because of course working with the mass media is not the same as participating directly, in the short time that we have, in a campaign of this kind. We tried to go to as many places as possible, but the number of people we can see is minimal. The amount of direct contact that the candidates are going to have with people is going to reach 5 or 10 percent. Any more is impossible, because there are over 50,000 inhabitants, and it is impossible for the candidates to make contact with all of them in such a few days. The important thing is for the population to know that the candidates have been around the area, have been moving about, have been touring the area. That is what is important, not for them to actually see the candidates. These visits that they are making, the contact with the candidates, plays a very important role, and judging by what I am told, I think they are doing marvelous work. I am very happy to be able to participate in part of this work. [end recording]

Castro 'Unexpectedly' Attends Neighborhood Meeting

FL0502191693 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Our top leader Fidel Castro unexpectedly participated in the presentation of candidates for deputies [to the National Assembly] and delegates to the provincial assembly which was held in District No. 3 in Playa Municipality, Havana City Province. Before a group of members of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution who had gathered in the food industry enterprise parking lot, Fidel asked many questions about how these meetings between the candidates and their voters are being held. The president of the Councils of State and Ministers explained that he wanted to see how these talks are being held, and he urged them to continue these exchanges. During his impromptu talk, Fidel explained the importance of each citizen knowing how to exercise the right to vote.

Rosales, Torres Attend Ceremony in Cienfuegos

FL0902033493 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Feb 93

[Text] The combat banner, one of the highest decorations that can be granted to our military units, was awarded on 7 February to the Cienfuegos Province regiment of red berets by Division General Ulises Rosales, the chief of the General Staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR]. The banner of honor was received by Regiment Chief Colonel Jose A. Marrero Hidalgo. In the name of FAR Minister Army General Raul Castro, his first vice minister attended the solemn award ceremony along with Nelson Torres, the first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] for Cienfuegos Province. The two members of the PCC Politburo were accompanied by Div. Gen. Ramon Pardo Guerra and Div. Gen. Joaquin Quintas Solas—vice FAR minister and chief of the Central Army, respectively—among others.

Nelson Torres praised the regiment's high level of combat and political readiness and described it as a faithful exponent of our nation's monolithic unity and the close ties between the people and their armed forces. He stated that the most important thing is that all its members are characterized by patriotism and revolutionary steadfastness, courage and discipline, modesty and determination, and their honorable status as internationalist combatants. Torres mentioned the work heroism of the workers and all the people of Cienfuegos, stressing their achievements in the sugar harvest, their feat of having harvested more than 1.6 million quintals of tubers and vegetables, as well as other positive economic results obtained in spite of the limitations of the special period. Another eloquent proof was the drop in infant mortality to 8.2 per 1,000 live births.

In giving the closing speech of the ceremony, which was held at the regiment's training range, Rosales del Toro dealt with several different subjects and talked about the FAR as a whole.

[Begin Rosales recording] A reflection of that level of awareness, capacity for sacrifice, and creativity is the result of the work by our chiefs, officers, and mass of soldiers and civilian workers of the FAR during the past year, when in spite of having fewer material resources, one of the highest levels of the last decade in the condition of our combat equipment was attained. A new record was set in building tunnels to protect the units and the populace. We succeeded in maintaining preparation for war at a level that ensures the combat readiness of the different units and forces.

As conclusive proof of the statement made by Army Gen. Raul Castro Ruz, the second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and FAR minister, that beans are as important or more important than guns, FAR agricultural production increased by more than 30 percent in comparison with 1991. This made it possible to raise the troops' self-sufficiency level, and we intend to increase production another 30 percent in 1993. What is even more important, the political- morale state of the FAR, evaluated by the level of discipline, organization, and efficiency, is at the highest level of recent times. [end recording]

The chief of the FAR General Staff and those accompanying him toured an exhibit of the magnificent equipment the unit possesses. They also visited the Central Army's training center for special troops, confirming its

excellent study materials and the rigorousness of the combat training that is provided to the officers and soldiers there.

Living conditions were also a subject of the visiting military chiefs' attention. They heard with satisfaction that the regiment's barracks, study center, and other facilities are in first place among all Central Army units for exceeding their food program plans. The visit to the small community of about 20 houses where the officers from the study center and their families reside was extremely interesting, since it was built in record time with very low consumption of cement, steel, and other materials that are in short supply. The esthetic beauty of the community is provided by nine different architectural designs, the quality in the finishing of each house, and the beauty of the surrounding landscape.

Judicial Changes To Facilitate Joint Ventures

PA0502151793 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Cuba has restructured its judicial system as a result of changes in its international economic relations after the loss of its principal trading partners: the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. The judicial changes ease the way for joint ventures and foreign investment in Cuba.

Orestes Perez Moya, head of the National Customs Office, announced the details related to the aforementioned restructuring to participants of the 10th plenary session of the Cuban-Mexican Bilateral Committee.

Mr. Perez Moya explained that Cuba is currently preparing several regulations that will provide businessmen with access to diverse customs opportunities. He also disclosed that Cuba already has private warehouses where businessmen can store their goods without having any taxes levied upon them.

Audit Reveals Violations at Crops Enterprise

FL0602141393 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The Havana Province Office of the Public Prosecutor has reported that violations have been detected at the miscellaneous crops enterprise and the collection agency center in Guines Municipality that caused thousands of pesos's worth of losses to the country's economy. According to information provided by Havana Province Prosecutor Maribel Castano, the miscellaneous crops enterprise plants, produces, and collects agricultural products for organizations and residents of Guines as well as supplying agricultural products to Havana City Province distribution centers for consumers there.

Among the main violations detected at that entity, it was found that it sold more than 19,000 quintals of tubers and vegetables worth more than 30,000 pesos to state organizations without approval under the distribution and sales plan. These products had been intended for consumption by the populace. Likewise, missing inventories, wastage, or misdelivery of agricultural products which occurred during collection was not recorded, since the amounts sold were reported as the amounts produced. Moreover, it was found that for 12 agricultural products, wastage higher than the allowable amounts occurred at the distribution center in Guines from January to October 1992, totalling more than 2,000 quintals.

As a result of the audits carried out at the miscellaneous crops enterprise and collection agency center in Guines, higher level offices were informed of the violations found so that the appropriate administrative mechanisms would be set in motion so that a higher percentage of the agricultural products would reach the populace.

Cuba-Mexico Bilateral Meeting Issues Communique

FL0602190893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] The 10th Cuba-Mexico bilateral meeting has ended. Its purpose was to strengthen trade relations between the two countries. At the closing session of this meeting, a joint communique was issued which reflects the 1992 trade balance, as well as the different mechanisms that have been created to facilitate financial relations between the two countries. Vicente Gutierrez, the president of Mexico's National Association of Manufacturers, spoke about these relations to those present.

[Begin Gutierrez recording] Concerning Mexico's trade relations with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, our nation has begun a strategy of trade relations based on the principles of the elimination of nontariff barriers and the setting up of an initial joint tariff. Thus, Mexico seeks to generate new areas of free trade in these regions of our continent. Our presence in Havana is due to this search for trade opportunities of mutual benefit. I again state our interest in establishing trade, industrial, and cooperation exchanges with Cuba. [end recording]

For Cuba, Profiro Mederos, the acting president of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, stated the following.

[Begin Mederos recording] We have stated before the importance our country gives to trade with Latin America, the Caribbean, and especially Mexico. We thank all the organizations and companies that have contributed to holding this event, especially our Mexican friends, who with their presence in solidarity have given proof of the confidence their people and government have in us. [end recording]

Oil Exploration Plans Attract Foreign Countries

PA0602152593 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1300 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Text] Jesus Perez Othon, first vice minister of basic industry, has stated in Havana that the participation of companies from France, Canada, and Sweden, among others, in the prospecting for and exploitation of oil in Cuba has significantly increased after international bids on this industry were held.

Perez Othon has confirmed that on 10 and 17 February bids will be held in Calgary, Canada, and in London, the capital of the UK. All this, he said, is part of Cuba's new policy for foreign investment in the oil industry.

In 1992, Cuba produced approximately 900,000 tons of oil. This year it plans to produce 1.3 million tons.

Roundup of Economic Activity 30 Jan - 4 Feb

FL0602151393

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on economic developments in Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 30 January and 4 February.

National Institute of Tourism President Rafael Sed Perez has reported that 500,000 tourists visited Cuba in 1992, which brought Cuba $340 million, and that Cuba hopes to play host to 1 million tourists in 1995. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1800 GMT 30 Jan]

Matanzas Province has increased its daily sugarcane milling capacity by putting the Granma Mill, in Jovellanos Municipality, into operation. "Like the rest of the mills in Matanzas and throughout Cuba, the Granma Mill had postponed the beginning of the sugar harvest because of a shortage of parts and technical equipment for the harvesting, milling, and transportation falling under its production plan." Matanzas now has operative 14 of the 19 mills scheduled to process in the current sugar campaign, and the remaining five mills are to begin harvesting and milling this month. Also, 72 hours were calculated lost due to a lack of electricity, which affected all the agroindustrial provinces, but power has now been restored.

Despite resource limitations, the use of low-cost materials allowed Ciego de Avila Province to finish over 800 housing units in 1992. Out of these, 229 were built using conventional construction systems; the rest using Ciego de Avila's own means, or applying the initiative to use low-cost basic resources.

In 1992, the Sulfometals Factory in Minas de Matahambre, Pinar del Rio Province, produced over 2,000 tons of lead mixed with antimony. This was a new operation begun in 1992. [Radio Reloj Network Spanish 2030 GMT 2 Feb] reports the following: 446 caballerias of sugarcane were planted nationwide in January, which represents 115 percent of the goal for the month.

Around 12,700 people have visited Havana from several parts of the former Soviet Union affected by the Chernobyl nuclear accident. A defense preparation year-end summary meeting was held in Camaguey Province. The province planted 30 million trees, doubled the plan for construction of civil defense tunnels, participated in several civil defense exercises, and repaired and maintained important combat assets. [Radio Progreso Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Feb]

A cooperation and exchange agreement has been signed between the Mexican Education Workers Union and the Cuban Education, Science, and Sports Workers Union. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1800 GMT 3 Feb]

Sugar Ministry and Construction Ministry brigades have completed an integrated cane cleaning center in Jovellanos Municipality, Matanzas Province, 25 days ahead of schedule. The center can process 100,000 arrobas of sugarcane per day, and with only seven workers it will be more efficient than the collection centers in separating foreign matter from the harvested cane. Matanzas Province has nine of this kind of center, 54 collection centers, 15 single-process cleaning centers and seven double-process cleaning centers, which together can handle 90 percent of the cane harvested in the province. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Feb]

An hydraulic engineer from the Construction Ministry said during an interview that the focus in 1992 was on efforts to finish dams and agricultural irrigation systems. He noted that 15 dams were completed, adding that Villa Clara, Holguin, and Sancti Spiritus Provinces benefited from these projects. He said there is an ongoing search for new construction materials and technology. [Radio Progreso Spanish 1200 GMT 4 Feb]

Hotels in Havana have broken occupancy records in January and February because of international conferences. The report notes that 7,000 foreigners were lodged and the occupancy rate was 98 percent. [Radio Reloj Spanish 1500 GMT 4 Feb]

A Cienfuegos Province fish farming enterprise reports that 100 tons more catch was produced in 1992 than in 1991. Also, approximately 3,000 new workers joined the sugar workers union in Holquin Province. This is an 8 percent growth from last year and includes 2,000 recently retired people. The province has increased its contribution to the Territorial Troops Militia by more than 7 percent in comparison with 1992. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Feb]

Politburo Members Activities Reported 30 Jan-5 Feb

FL0602153993

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on the activities of members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 30 January and 5 February.

Jorge Lezcano attended a ceremony in which Jose Marti national journalism prizes were awarded to 10 Cuban journalists. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Jan]

While in Santa Clara presiding over a meeting of representatives of the Cuban Workers Federation of Villa Clara Province's 13 municipalities, Pedro Ross urged them to increase construction of low-cost housing units in cane-growing areas. Earlier Ross had toured the Diez de Octubre Agroindustrial Sugar Complex in Ranchuelo. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1000 GMT 30 Jan]

Pedro Ross Leal, president of the Cuban Workers Federation, CTC, praised sugar industry workers for their efforts during the current harvest at a CTC plenary meeting in Sancti Spiritus Province. He noted their efficiency and production; praised the high morale of agricultural, transportation, and sugar cane industry workers; and pointed out the importance of the upcoming elections. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1600 GMT 1 Feb]

Jose Ramon Balaguer met at the Communist Party of Cuba headquarters with a delegation of the Hungarian Socialist Labor Party, headed by its president (Gyula Humer) who stressed the support of the Hungarian Communists for the struggle of the Cuban people. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Feb]

During a visit to Ciego de Avila Province, Pedro Ross Leal said that the sugar industry workers are showing great determination, intelligence, and resolve in their harvest work. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Feb]

Candidates chosen to run for the Granma Provincial Assembly and for deputies of the National Assembly are being presented to voters at work centers, schools, and residential areas. Among them is Yadira Garcia Vera, who is a candidate to deputy for District No. 1 in Bayamo. [Radio Reloj Spanish 2048 GMT 2 Feb]

Army General Raul Castro toured mountainous areas of Segundo Frente Municipality, Santiago de Cuba Province, accompanied by, among other people, Division Gen. Ramon Espinosa, Vilma Espin, and Jorge Risquet, all members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba. Castro stopped and chatted with various people along the way, discussing many different matters having to do with improving life in the area. [Cuba Vision Network Spanish 0100 GMT 4 Feb]

At an awards ceremony for 70 trade, food service, and tourism workers in Camaguey Province, Pedro Ross called the upcoming elections one of the priority tasks, along with the food program and the sugar harvest. He emphasized the role of workers in the upcoming elections. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1000 GMT 4 Feb]

Nelson Torres attended a ceremony in Cienfuegos Province honoring the 16th Congress Contingent who were the first to win the Union of Young Communist banner for their work in tubers and vegetables at the Juragua miscellaneous crop enterprise. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1255 GMT 4 Feb]

Pedro Ross congratulated trade and food service sector workers on the occasion of the celebration of Trade and Food Service Workers' Day on 4 February. [Radio Reloj Spanish 2030 GMT 4 Feb]

Esteban Lazo has presided over a meeting ending a two-day visit to Segundo Frente Municipality, Santiago de Cuba Province. Lazo said that voting on 24 February is an effective way to say yes to Cuba and to the fatherland. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 0000 GMT 5 Feb]

While in Las Tunas Province, Pedro Ross awarded the Jesus Menendez Complex a banner which marks them as the first in finishing canefield recovery tasks. Ross evaluated the efforts as satisfactory, noting the fulfillment of weeding and planting plans as well as the advanced replanting plan and other agricultural tasks. While in Las Tunas Province, Alfredo Jordan presided over a ceremony presenting the trade and food service workers union a banner for being the first in this sector, three years in a row, in the emulation campaign. [Radio Rebelde Spanish 1000 GMT 5 Feb] Jorge Lezcano attended the ceremony to celebrate the first anniversary of Canton Camp, which is made up of workers from the capital mobilized to agricultural labor, in Melena del Sur Municipality, Havana Province. [Radio Reloj Spanish 2030 GMT 5 Feb] Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada participated in the ceremony of presentation of credentials by the new Jordanian ambassador to Cuba on 5 February. [Cuba Vision Network Spanish 2320 GMT 5 Feb]

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Windward Collaboration on Bananas Requested

FL0802185493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1729 GMT 8 Feb 93

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Feb 8, CANA—St. Lucia banana farmers have called on their counterparts in the Windward Islands to oppose efforts by their governments to restructure the vital banana industry in the face of increasing competition in Europe. The farmers also want the governments to make public proposals for any restructuring.

"While we do not doubt the necessity for some new arrangements to be put in place, we wish to seriously question the manner in which this whole issue is being approached without consultation whatsoever with the banana farmers, particularly as it seems, the governments... are bent on taking over, lock, stock and barrel, the operations of the banana industry," the National Farmers Association (NFA) said in media advertisements here.

St. Lucia's prime minister John Compton told parliament last month the new initiatives for restructuring the industry would include formation of a new holding company, to be known as the Windward Islands Banana Exporting Company (WIBEC).

According to Compton, the local banana associations in Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and St. Lucia would continue to perform their functions as provided under respective legislation. He said new arrangements were being put in place to allow for external marketing arrangements, and that WIBEC would participate in other subsidiary companies to deal with the functions currently being performed by Winban.

The NFA said that the whole history of the banana industry "has been marked by this type of contemptuous treatment of banana farmers by Windward Island Governments."

"Our governments have always tended to overextend their involvement in the industry as if to suggest that banana farmers cannot manage their own business," the NFA said. The association said it had noticed the Windward Islands Governments shift from participation to control within the industry in recent years.

"We accept the fact that governments need to be more involved at the diplomatic levels as guardians of the economics of the respective states, but we see no justifiable reasons for the governments wanting to implant... an unnecessarily top heavy presence of bureaucrats to dominate an industry which has made substantial progress during its 40-year existence through the efforts of the growers themselves..." the statement said.

The NFA said it was aware of plans by the various banana growers associations to form a company called Winco, but that there appeared to be "differences between banana officials and governments on the way forward... The future shape and direction of our banana industry should not be decided upon only by governments and technocrats. We call for banana farmers to be brought into this process, as it is their right as producers. The banana farmers of St. Lucia and the other islands need to stand up for their rights and do not allow our governments to completely take over their industry," the NFA said.

The NFA said the formation of WIBEC by the governments should be seen as providing a safe haven for the British multi-national company, Geest Industries, the main buyer of Windward Islands fruit, from criticism from Germany, which a recent European Community arrangement for the sale of bananas in Europe.

"The equity participation as proposed would seem to indicate that our governments are taking an initiative to shelter Geest and remove Germany's speculation..." The NFA said. The association said that while it did not oppose the existing relationship with Geest Industries, the company was no longer a family affair, but a multinational one, with its interests far exceeding that of the Windward Islands Governments. The NFA said it was urging governments to make public "the entire text of the government's proposals" for public scrutiny before implementation of any restructuring programme.

In addition, the NFA also listed three other proposals to ensure the restructuring efforts were subjected to scrutiny by farmers.

"We cannot ever envisage our government setting out to restructure the tourism sector of these islands without consulting with the persons involved...It is our view that that same level of respect should be extended to banana farmers," the NFA said.

Antigua and Barbuda

Decision To Suspend Dissident Reversed

FL0802185393 Bridgetown CANA in English 1704 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, Feb 8, CANA—The executive of the ruling Antigua Labour Party (ALP) has reversed its decision to suspend dissident backbencher and party first vice chairman Hugh Marshall, informed sources said Monday. Marshall, a former trade minister, was suspended just over a week ago after he had severely criticised public utilities minister Robin Yearwood during a parliamentary debate.

Marshall viewed the suspension as a violation of his civil and constitutional rights and said he intended to defy the order barring him from taking in party activities.

The sources told CANA the suspension was lifted last Friday at a regular ALP executive meeting which Marshall attended. The sources said executive members felt there should be a "cooling off period" to help facilitate a resolution of several issues which have divided the party in recent years. Marshall had scheduled a press conference for late Monday.

Party chairman Adolphous Freeland had spearheaded the effort to discipline Marshall with the support of Prime Minister Vere Bird.

Dominican Republic

Increased Vigilance on Haitian Border Denied

FL0502175993 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] The chief of the general staff of the National Army denied that the armed forces have currently increased vigilance at the country's border with Haiti. Major General Jose Emilio Guzman Fernandez said that there are no valid reasons for those military units to increase

vigilance at the border. He pointed out that so far everything is normal at the Dominican-Haitian border.

Haiti

Media Silence Protests Journalist Disappearance

FL0802135093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1200 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] The press has decided to remain silent this morning as a statement of protest of the disappearance of our colleague Colson Dorme during a demonstration with official character on 1 February, protest against repeated attacks on journalists in the capital and in the provinces, solidarity with all the colleagues victimized in the execution of their profession, and solidarity with media workers in general. If the press remains silent this morning, it is to emphasize that it does not wish to give up its constitutional right to inform the people. If we remain silent this morning, it is also to remind everyone that freedom of expression is a victory that neither the press nor the Haitian people are willing to give up.

We are convinced that the authorities in power have the legal means to shed light on the disappearance of our colleague Colson Dorme and on other cases of attack against the press. Whose interests are being served by a silencing of the press? Each one of us needs the press as a channel for the exercise of our right to speak. The press in the service of freedom of expression is essential in any democratic society and in any society longing for democracy. The defense of freedom of expression is a fight that concerns all of us.

Abducted Journalist Released

FL0802151993 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpt] We have learned that our colleague Colson Dorme was released last night at about 1115 in front of Radio Tropic FM where he works. According to a source close to Radio Tropic, who we contacted by phone, the journalist was abducted at the Port-au-Prince International Airport. They [not further identified] took him by the nape of his neck, blindfolded him, put him in a pick-up truck, and took him away. They cut his hair and beat him for the whole week, according to statements he made to Radio Tropic FM. For the time being, he is at that radio station. His state of health is not at all good.

In a few moments, according to the Radio Tropic sources, he will talk with journalists from that radio station to explain the details of his abduction, how he managed and lived through that moment, who it was who most likely abducted him, where they took him, or—probably more likely—where they put him.

We are repeating: Our colleague Colson Dorme was released last night at 1115 in front of Radio Tropic FM. [passage omitted]

Bazin Proposes Steps for Solution to Crisis

FL0802222193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Prime Minister Marc Bazin has favored a solution, in numerous steps, to the political crisis if the ongoing negotiations for the sending of an international civilian mission obtain positive results. Marc Bazin has advocated, in a message published on 5 February, establishing a plan for watching and protecting human rights and a plan for initiating dialogue. This message was to be delivered by the prime minister on the occasion of a national assembly in parliament on 5 February. However, the opposition quashed the session, calling it unconstitutional. Clarence Renois summarizes Marc Bazin's message.

[Begin Renois recording] In his address, the head of the consensus government clearly announces that the coming weeks will be marked by important developments in the Haitian political crisis. After what Mr. Bazin terms as, quote, some negotiations, unquote, he announces that if everything goes well, a development in several stages, such as, quote, for establishing a plan for watching and protecting human rights, a plan for great institutional reforms, and a plan for initiating political dialogue, unquote. However, it is necessary to wait for answers from the international community, following the failure of Dante Caputo's mission.

The prime minister stated that this will only be done with the approval of parliament. Marc Bazin made a point of reassuring the Haitian parliamentarians. In all steps of this procedure, the parliament, keeper of an important part of the national sovereignty, will be regularly consulted. No final agreement will be valid without its formal approval.

Furthermore, in the text of this speech, a copy of which was given to the press, Mr. Bazin stresses some difficult times. The country, he writes, is anticipating living through some difficult but fascinating timess that should, if God wants, succeed in the democratization of political structures. Moreover, he plans a broadening of the governmental consensus which will lead, by reading between the lines, to a reshuffle, to say the least, a cabinet reshuffle.

The prime minister raises the call to rally for an atmosphere of unity, tolerance, and harmony among Haitians, to the normalization of political, social, and economic life. Marc Bazin states that the time has come for rallying for the great cause of the nation. The time has come for thought and collective action in the face of the common drama. The time has finally come for a new beginning, concluded Prime Minister Marc Bazin, who was due to give that speech on 5 February at the opening of the parliamentary session. [end recording]

Masses Mark Anniversary of Aristide Presidency

FL0802210093 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1400 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] On 7 February the second anniversary of the accession to power of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide unfolded peacefully in Port-au-Prince and in the provinces. The day was also peaceful in Cap-Haitien, where police had dispersed a demonstration of several hundred students in favor of the return of Father Aristide on 4 February

In Port-au-Prince the anniversary was marked by the celebration of several masses, first at the Port-au-Prince Cathedral, then at Saint Gerard Church and other institutions, with the participation of several hundred believers. During the mass at the Port-au-Prince Cathedral the two officiating priests demanded a return to democracy. They also denounced repression and intimidation against priests throughout the country as well as the recent attacks and threats against several Haitian and foreign journalists. A portion of the congregation left the Port-au-Prince Cathedral yesterday following heightened panic when several believers voiced numerous clearly political slogans which were hostile to the current authorities.

Senate Branches Convene National Assembly

FL0502175293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1400 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Two convenings of the national assembly have been scheduled for today. At the beginning of the week, the Senate branch, presided over by Thomas Eddy Dupiton, convened the senators and deputies for 5 February at 1100. The other branch, led by Senator Firmin Jean-Louis, decided on 4 February to convene the parliamentarians for a meeting in the national assembly this morning at 1000. Moreover, this Senate branch led by Sen. Jean-Louis held a meeting yesterday with representatives of several political parties, and people's and peasant organizations at the parliament. The opposition senators wanted to consider—jointly with their guests—proposals for a solution to the Haitian political crisis.

Antonin Resigns From PANPRA Secretariat

FL0502230093 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Arnold Antonin has resigned as a member of the secretariat of the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [PANPRA]. In a letter to Serge Gilles, coordinator of the party, Arnold Antonin announced that he will not reconsider his decision to leave the party leadership and that he will no longer assume responsibilities for PANPRA's political decisions.

"I waged PANPRA's latest battles with much discipline, force, and dignity through the 18 January elections. It was a thankless—but in my opinion, patriotic—struggle. I assumed all the responsibilities it included." This is what Antonin wrote in the letter he sent to Serge Gilles explaining that he does not want to wage other battles for the time being.

Antonin added: "I want to stop a bit so I can prepare for the battles to come, and I hope they will find us with greater power to fight and to refuse any longer to serve as a stepping stone." These are the statements by Arnold Antonin who has resigned from the PANPRA secretariat but remains a member of the party.

Jamaica

Civil Servants, Government Continue Negotiations

FL0502184093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1506 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 5, CANA—Jamaica's civil servants and the government are still at loggerheads over a new two-year wage contract. At a two hour meeting Thursday with Public Service Minister Dr. Paul Robertson, representatives of the Jamaica Civil Service Association (JCSA) again rejected the government's offer of 30 per cent in the first year and 15 per cent in the second.

As he did a week ago, the minister has agreed to report to cabinet which meets every Monday, bringing "revised proposals" from the civil servants for the government's consideration. Details of the revised proposals were not forthcoming but the civil servants had originally demanded increases of more than 100 per cent. The government has already said that no public sector grouping with the exception of policemen will get comparable wage increases with teachers who recently received 60 per cent in the first year and 30 per cent in the second.

A spokesman for the JCSA told CANA that there was reason for hope as "the minister (Robertson) seems to think that the government will come up with an improved offer." One proposal being offered by the government is for the civil servants to accept bonds in lieu of part of retroactive payments. This method was accepted by the teachers.

Meanwhile, air traffic controllers, who last month stopped working for three days to reinforce their point, have also reiterated their rejection of the government's offer and are reported to be pondering their next move. In addition to an improved wage contract, the air traffic controllers also want their division to be made a statutory body, a situation which they feel would allow them to negotiate for higher salaries in the future.

The police force meanwhile will hear on Monday, details of an award by a three-man arbitration panel. Press reports say the police have been awarded 300 million Jamaican dollars (1 Ja dollar approx 4.5 U.S. cents) or almost all they had asked for. But police federation

officials and the governmment have remained tight-lipped saying no details will be given prior to a meeting with the general membership of the force. The police and the government agreed to take their dispute to arbitration late last year, after they failed to agree on a wage pact.

Public sector claims for wage increases amount to about 9 billion dollars, but the government, which is struggling to maintain tight fiscal discipline and anti-inflationary policies, says only 3.9 billion dollars has been budgeted for public sector increases.

Trinidad and Tobago

Police Protest Scotland Yard Officers

FL0502160193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1449 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 5, CANA—On the same day Trinidad and Tobago Government workers are expected to stage a massive protest about 300 uniformed police officers staged a demonstration in Port of Spain outside police headquarters. The officers gathered to greet Commissioner Jules Bernard on his return from a six month vacation and to protest against the creation of five senior posts for Scotland Yard officers now probing corruption within the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

Minister of national security, Senator Russel Huggins, said in a television interview last night that the granting of Trinidad and Tobago jurisdiction to the Scotland Yard officers was the only way of getting around the lack of co-operation by local officers in the investigation.

Officers told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY (CANA) they will be taking their protest outside the Red House—the House of Parliament—and to the offices of the Ministry of National Security. Their march around the Red House was to take place hours before thousands of public sector workers were expected to do the same to coincide with Friday's sitting of Parliament. Public servants are protesting against the delay in settling their backpay issue which stems from a court order of 1987.

Public Servants Respond to Strike

FL0502185593 Bridgetown CANA in English 1821 GMT 5 Feb 93

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Feb 5, CANA—Two trade unions in Trinidad and Tobago reported Friday the majority of public servants and teachers in the country had responded to their calls to strike.

"I went around the offices in Port-of-Spain this morning and there was peace and quiet..... save for a few senior people who were out," president of the Public Services Association (PSA) Roland Graham, told CANA. He estimated that between 80-90 per cent of its 40,000 members had stayed away from their offices. There are about 65,000 public servants.

Frank Ramnanan, the general secretary of the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association (TTUTA), said the association had received a "fantastic response" from its 8,000 members.

Public sector unions were expected to hold a mass demonstration outside Parliament Building Friday afternoon to protest non-payment of more than a billion dollars (TT) to workers. Earlier, an estimated 300 police officers marched around the Red House, home of the Parliament, to protest the hiring of Scotland Yard detectives in the police service.

Ramnanan said there was a 90 per cent response from 60 schools in the central region of Caroni. In Victoria in the southern region, there was an 85 per cent response from 105 schools. In the south eastern district, 90 per cent of the teachers in 40 schools stayed away from classes. In Port-of-Spain, there was 60-65 per cent support from 100 schools.

Ramnanan said TTUTA's officers were on the field compiling information from other regions, including Tobago. "Our officers on the field reported that in many schools principals made a visit for security purposes while supervisors from the (Education) Ministry were also making their rounds to see how many teachers showed up," he said.

Education minister, Augustus Ramrekersingh, told CANA he was expecting a report from supervisors. He added: "...But my high blood pressure level is reading perfect."

A check by CANA at some schools in port-of-Spain showed low turn-out by teachers. Most parents also responded to a call by the teachers union to keep their children at home. In the morning period, several schools although manned by the principals and a skeleton staff, kept the doors open.

Public utilities workers, particularly from the Water and Sewerage Authority, the Public Transport Service Corporation, and Port Authority are expected to provide solid support to the march around Parliament.

The demonstration called by the National Trade Union Centre (NATUC), an association of 13 trade unions, is to protest the non-payment of a 3.8 billion dollar (1 TT dollar = 23.5 cents U.S.) debt and retrenchment in the three public utilities. The debt results from arrears on the suspension of Cost of Living Allowance [COLA] and other increments in 1987, the arrears on a 2 per cent increase in salary and new COLA rates, measures which were taken to assist the sagging economy.

The unions have charged that government appears concerned about paying the 5.8 billion dollar foreign debt while ignoring what is due workers. Government said while it could not pay any money towards the workers

arrears this year and had to repay 2.8 billion dollars to foreign creditors. Finance Minister Wendell Mottley has noted the "huge" external debt coupled with falling international oil prices and a high wage bill. He said government could not postpone retrenchment in certain inefficient utilities.

Demonstrate Over Wages

FL0602010693 Bridgetown CANA in English 1936 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Feb 5, CANA—Thousands of chanting Trinidad and Tobago public sector workers demonstrated around the Parliament building on Friday over a longstanding wages dispute with the government.

The teachers, clerks, firemen, transport workers and others left depleted class rooms and offices to press their point to the government that they wanted their 2.8 billion dollars in cash in the shortest possible time and in not in small installments spread over several years.

With armed policemen nearby and young recruits holding batons standing near the entrances to the building, the workers marched around the Red House chanting slogens to the rhythm of the latest Calypso hits.

Earlier in the day police officers had demonstrated around the Red House, which is opposite their headquarters building, to protest against the installation of Scotland Yard officers in five top posts created in the Trinidad and Tobago police service.

"Manning yuh mother come, she come for she money", the afternoon protestors sang to the tune of a current controversial tune "Paul yu mother come".

"Manning take Mottley and go, we ent leaving the wuk just so," they chanted in response to Finance Minister Wendell Mottley's recent statement that job cuts could be expected at public utilities companies.

Observers said the one hour protest was the biggest demonstration around the Red House since the beginning of the People's National Movement term of office in 1991.

The crowd cheered opposition parliamentarians - particularly those of Basdeo Panday's United National Congress - entering the building and jeered government ministers.

However there was an uncanny silence on the arrival of former Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson under whose National Alliance for Reconstruction administration wage increases were withheld and salaries cut for a year to help reduce spending and shore up the economy.

The workers are demanding that the government make an initial cash payment from the accumulated debt.

Groups Project Baja California Sur Elections

PA0802172693 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Report by Hector Guerrero from Baja California Sur—live]

[Text] Here we are in La Paz, Baja California Sur, where elections for governor, local congressmen, and five municipal presidents were held. These were the fourth elections held in this young state. The atmosphere was calm, and no problems were reported.

The 438 polls opened at 0800 on 7 February in Baja California Sur to elect municipal presidents, local deputies, and a governor. No incidents were reported, except for the late opening of certain polls.

After voting in La Paz poll No. 46, Governor Victor Manuel Liziaga announced that the victory of any opposition party would be recognized.

Guillermo Mercado Romero, the Institutional Revolutionary Party's [PRI] candidate for governor, said the elections would represent no exception to the region's serious political attitude inasmuch as the voters have a strong sense of responsibility. Mercado Romero said he agreed with Cristoforo Salido Almada, the National Action Party's [PAN] candidate for governor, that there was a large voter turnout. Samuel Rueda, Party of the Democratic Revolution's [PRD] candidate for governor, agreed with the PRI and PAN candidates that abstentionism will be defeated.

No one was in line when the polls closed at 1800 and polling officials began the preliminary vote count. The State Electoral Commission will announce the official results of the elections for governor, local deputies, and municipal presidents on 14 February.

It is now 0629, and it is still too early for any official results. A few hours ago, however, the state's main political groups did make some projections.

PRI and PAN each claimed victory. For example, PRI announced that candidate Guillermo Mercado Romero had obtained 54 percent of the votes and is leading by a margin of 10 percent over his closest follower, PAN candidate (Cristoforo Salido Almada).

As for the elections for the five municipal presidents, the tricolor party says it is winning as follows: In Los Cabos municipality, it has a 27-percent lead; in Muleje, 11 percent; in Loreto, 30 percent. The tricolor party admitted that the results are very close in La Paz municipality, while the preliminary results are not favorable in Comondu municipality. As for the elections for the local congress, the PRI insists it will have a majority in the forthcoming legislation.

The PRI is basing its announcements on a quick sampling of the results. The projections are 95 percent reliable and have a 2-percent margin of error. This system has been used in other countries and some want to use it in Mexico to achieve faster results. It is also based on the final tally sheets of 55 polling stations late on the evening of 7 February.

PAN said it has sampled 25 percent of the polls and the results favor the party in the elections for governor. PAN added that it has an advantage of three to one in the elections for municipal presidents in La Paz and Comodu municipalities, where nearly 70 percent of the population live.

El Salvador

Cristiani Attends Battalion Demobilization Ceremony

PA0602224093

[Editorial Report] San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish at 1633 GMT on 6 February begins to broadcast a live relay from San Miguel where the Manuel Jose Arce Battalion demobilization ceremony will take place as part of the peace agreements between the Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN.

Reporter Nery Mabel Rayes says that President Alfredo Cristiani, Mrs. Cristiani, Deputy Defense Minister Juan Orlando Zepeda, other cabinet members, as well as top military officers will preside over the ceremony "where more than 1,000 Arce Battalion troops will be incorporated into civilian life." Members of Onusal, the UN Observers for El Salvador, headed by Spanish Army General Victor Suanzes Pardo, and local authorities of San Miguel Department are also attending the event.

An unidentified master of ceremonies reads the history of the Manuel Jose Arce Battalion and introduces Lieutenant Colonel Oscar Armando Anaya, the Arce Battalion commander, who then reviews the troops with President Cristiani.

Lt. Col. Anaya speaks, thanking God for his guidance and protection. He then introduces Chaplain Oscar Campos Del Pinar who says a prayer.

Reporter Reyes says the flag will be raised, the national anthem will be sung, a minute of silence for fallen soldiers will be observed, the Defense Ministry order demobilizing the battalion will be read, a member of the community will speak, and then, to conclude, there will be speeches by the Arce Battalion commander and by President Cristiani.

Lt. Col. Anaya then addresses the event. He says the troops are proud of the mission they accomplished and adds that "today more than ever, it can be said that the Army will live as long as there is a Republic." He goes on to remember those who died during the conflict and says that their "blood has not been shed in vain."

At 1713 GMT the reporter says Anaya continues to speak, but the station interrupts the relay to return to the main studios in San Salvador only to resume the relay five minutes later with President Cristiani's speech already in progress.

Cristiani praises the Army's excellent role during all the historical moments of the fatherland. He says "the Armed Forces, in compliance with their noble mission, have watered the nation's soil with the blood of their best soldiers, thus fertilizing the Salvadoran people's ideals to live in peace, democracy, and freedom."

He recalls the difficult years that bore pain, suffering, and destruction for the Salvadoran people. Cristiani then goes on to thank God that the sad and iil-fated years have been left behind.

The Salvadoran president thanks the Arce Battalion members on the people's behalf and states: "Today, with the demobilization of the Rapid Deployment General Manuel Jose Arce Infantry Battalion, the government concludes the process of reorganizing the Armed Forces in compliance with the constitutional reforms and peace agreements."

Cristiani recognizes the Armed Forces "for their dignified and professional attitude during the peace process and for their share of institutional sacrifice for the sake of peace, democracy, freedom, and the progress of the Salvadoran people." He then congratulates the Armed Forces for their involvement in social programs to improve living conditions for the inhabitants of the Republic.

At 1725 GMT Cristiani says he is pleased and proud of the battalion's military history and asks the soldiers to continue to be men of honor, useful to the fatherland.

Reporter Reyes then summarizes the ceremony for listeners. The live relay ends at 1729 GMT with the ceremony still in progress.

FMLN's Handal Urges Armed Forces Purge Compliance

PA0902010893 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Shafik Handal, general coordinator of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] Party, joined in the request by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali for the government to comply with the Armed Forces purge. Shafik Handal asked President Alfredo Cristiani to make public the date on which 15 of the 102 military officers to be purged will be discharged from the Armed forces, as established in the peace agreements signed in Mexico. Here is what Shafik Handal said:

[Begin Shafik Handal recording] The secretary general has spoken. He said the president has not complied with the agreements in the cases of 15 military officers who are to be discharged. The secretary general urged President Cristiani to comply as soon as possible. I understand there have been frequent communications between the secretary general and the president. The secretary general has insisted on compliance; there is a deadline to discharge those 15 officers. To my knowledge, at least up until the end of last week, the president had not replied to the secretary general. At least we are nearing the release of the Truth Commission report, and that will be, as the saying goes, like preaching to the choir. I do not think it is in the interest of the president, the government, or the nation for this situation to continue to drag on. The Truth Commission report will be made public.

This is set out in the agreements; this is the decision of the Truth Commission. Therefore, the secretary general has to make public the report. [end recording]

The FMLN coordinator said the purging issue remains unsolved and will become front page material in light of the Truth Commission report. If President Cristiani does not comply with the dismissal of 15 of the 102 military officers, who must be discharged due to human rights violations, there will be no reconciliation in the country, Handal said.

FMLN Official on Talks With U.S. Officials, Issues

PA0702041293 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 6 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Juan Ramon Medrano, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, Political Commission member and participant in the Salvadoran Revolutionary Party, PRS, National Assembly being held in Segundo Montes, by unidentified studio announcer—live]

[Text] [Announcer] We have on the line Juan Ramon Medrano, member of the FMLN Political Commission and member of the Salvadoran Revolutionary Party. We have requested Medrano to comment on the results of the PRS National Assembly. Good morning Medrano, please proceed.

[Medrano] Good morning to YSU listeners. On the morning of 5 February we opened the working session of the PRS National Assembly; the party, just like the FMLN, that is engaged in a transformation process in preparation for the political struggle. The points to be discussed were the transition structure, the implementation of the transition, the overall strategy—particularly the election strategy—and the preparation of the congress to be held in one or two months. At the congress.... [pauses] sorry, at the Assembly, there are 150 delegates engaged in territorial work of the sectors and the [words indistinct].

At the initiation of the debates, an agenda was outlined. First, there was a report on the fulfillment of the peace agreements and now we are discussing the proposal for the structure during the transition period. This proposal will be ratified or broadened during the congress. As far as the overall and election strategies are concerned, they will be discussed this afternoon. Right now we are engaged in a debate on a more modern, more flexible, more democratic, less vertical structure. This structure guarantees the participation of diverse sectors in which representative democracy is combined with direct democracy. Therefore, the diverse sectors are represented at the level of the areas, in local committees, as well as at the level of the sectors.

[Announcer] We understand that on 5 February AID representatives and Peter Romero from the U.S. Embassy paid you a visit. We would like to know what their vision of this new FMLN-PRS role is or if they just went to verify the destruction of the weapons.

[Medrano] They visited the assembly directly. They informally attended the first assembly at Jocoaitique and held another meeting with a group of senior combatants and our leaders in San Salvador.

The U.S. officials wanted to hear our leaders' views on the spot, give their opinions, and present a proposal regarding the FMLN in El Salvador. The people who visited us were the AID deputy chief, acting U.S. Ambassador Peter Romero, Bernard Aronson's deputy at Latin American affairs, and other officials.

The top level official first asserted that the United States, under the Clinton administration, would continue to aid the national reconstruction process, and, second, also continue to aid the FMLN combatants' reentry process into society.

I believe the gentlemen are concerned and came to see if our leaders and political personnel understand the new situation and are really willing to play a political role with a legal party and in a developing state of law.

[Announcer] You are preparing a congress to be held in the near future. An international news agency reported that you had said the FMLN would go into the 1994 elections divided. We would like your comments on this matter.

[Medrano] No, what I said was that the FMLN would not go divided into the 1994 elections. I believe the FMLN's only option to win the elections is by going, not only united, but together with all the opposition sector and many other sectors, including independents. I believe the FMLN is the nation's hope. We trust the FMLN will unite, not divide, the forces in the country and this is what we aim to do. Our objective is to win the election. We have to win the Nationalist Republican Alliance. We have to defeat the polarizing, right-winged government and install a government of national dialogue.

[Announcer] On ending, I would like you to confirm if the weapon destruction process will be completed in the Morazan area next week as the UN secretary general has stated.

[Medrano] Our evaluation of both parties' compliance with the agreements is that we have already reached a high level of compliance. Important points, such as the assignment of land and purge of the Armed Forces, are in the process of being implemented. Of course, there have been delays in the assignment of land and the purge and there have also been delays in the destruction of weapons.

We, however, want to expedite the weapon destruction process and hope actions to hasten land assignments and the purge will also be implemented. We are quite certain to complete the destruction of our weapons in the next

few days. As I have stated, such is the decision by the FMLN in full and my personal decision as well.

Army Troops To Counter Crime, Traffic Problems

PA0802235393 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpts] On 8 February, Alfredo Cristiani announced a short-term plan to counter crime and traffic problems in San Salvador. He will use Army troops, which are reportedly trained to handle traffic problems. Cristiani made the announcement to the 2d Infantry Brigade in Santa Ana. The plan reportedly calls for surveying, filling in potholes, hanging street signs, preventing vehicles from parking along the city's main streets and avenues, and evicting vendors from these streets and avenues.

According to President Cristiani, these reinforcements will allow the Police to concentrate its activities and counter the high crime rate in San Salvador's metropolitan area. Cristiani's announcement about the use of the Army might provoke strong reactions. Different groups in the country might object to the use of military forces in activities that are not foreseen in the Constitution.

This would be tantamount to militarizing the capital of El Salvador again. We would see military forces and weapons all over the city, as if we were at war. This could be part of a psychological plan against the civilian population and intended to scare the people. [passage omitted]

Cristiani has plans to use Army forces in traffic activities; so what will be the role of the new National Civilian Police? Handling traffic is precisely one of the police's functions. This will cause a controversy because it involves Army forces that have been involved in robberies throughout the country. [passage omitted]

The people should remain alert and follow developments closely—in case someone wants to put thieves in charge of directing traffic.

Honduras

Human Rights Official Blames '3-16' for Violence

PA0902125993 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 6 Feb 93 p 22

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Ramon Custodio Lopez, president of the Honduran Human Rights Defense Committee, Codeh, said on 5 February that Battalion 3-16 is responsible for the wave of terror and death that has struck San Pedro Sula. The existence of this group cannot be denied, despite statements by the government and the Armed Forces, he added.

"Our reports on what is going on in San Pedro Sula have not been heard; no one has paid attention to us. Marcelino Martinez, our representative there, is constantly being chased by motorcycles, and they belong to Battalion 3-16. There is nothing to investigate as to who is responsible for the violence in San Pedro Sula; there is nothing further to discuss—it is time for us to lay our cards on the table," Custodio Lopez charged.

"All these scandals have been hushed up. We are always being accused because we accuse the military, but today we have in our hands evidence from journalist Eduardo Coto. Now the military will tell us the same old story. The military is not protecting journalists," Custodio Lopez said.

He also said that "militarizing San Pedro Sula does not solve the violence problem because this is continuing and has been going on for several years."

"There is a reality that cannot be argued: the security of civilian society is at stake. We have said this in the past, but this has been like water off a duck's back, because the constant complaints we lodge are said to be intended only to slander. The military says simply that our charges are lies," he said.

"Today 3-16 Battalion members are not only in the top echelon of the Armed Forces, such as General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, but also in the middle ranks, such as Luis Alonso Villatoro, Inocente Borjas Santos, and others. In a nutshell, it is a whole authoritarian military system that needs to be analyzed in depth because it is a fact that now more than ever the future of Honduran society is at stake," Custodio Lopez said.

"Callejas is an incapable president; the facts speak for themselves. We respect the president as the Constitution so demands, but when a person does not comply with the Constitution he swore to abide by and ensure the compliance of, his behavior has to be definitely questioned," Custodio Lopez said.

When asked if he believed in the existence of the "Group of Four" that has claimed responsibility for some violent acts, Custodio Lopez said dryly that "Military Intelligence needs to be asked this, because they are responsible for these Taiwanese-style communiques."

"Today violence is worse than when Gustavo Alvarez Martinez was in the Armed Forces, because procedures have been streamlined. Callejas says there are no missing persons but people are murdered every day. There is no difference between making people disappear and every day publicly killing people. There is no difference," he said.

"When the existence of 3-16 was confirmed on 30 November 1984, the authorities at the time said they were going to correct this, but Gen. Walter Lopez, who was commander in chief of the Armed Forces, did not cancel the 3-16. He never issued a public report on the missing people. But things did not stay put. Today 3-16 is at the top of the Army and therefore continue working. But the military under their command should remember that no one has to obey an order that makes them commit a crime," Custodio Lopez said.

"After the Inter-American Commission for the Defense of Human Rights condemned Honduras for the missing persons, all the Armed Forces did was change names. Today they call it the Counterintelligence Battalion, but they are the same people. President Jose Simon Azcona and Gen. Humberto Regalado Hernandez said they had dismantled the 3-16, but it continues its activities and it is led by an officer called Rodas Camero," Custodio Lopez said.

"If someone dares to demonstrate to me that the Counterintelligence Battalion is not the same as Battalion 3-16 I will retract everything I am stating. All this information is already in the hands of the diplomatic corps accredited in Honduras," he said.

"Militarism is the cause of violence. Instead of throwing money away, these funds should be invested in building hospitals," Custodio Lopez said when asked about eliminating the Armed Forces.

He said that "the Codeh is risking the lives of all its members by protecting journalist Coto, but everything has been done because we have confirmed that his life is in danger. We request that the people who commit these murders and the people who order them be punished," he said.

'Group of Four' Threatens Human Rights 'Violators'

PA0902020993 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 6 Feb 93 p 33

[Communique by the self-styled "Group of Four"; place and date not given]

[Text] We, the Group of Four, an independent armed branch of the Honduran Human Rights Defense Committee, made a pledge in our first communique, which we issued in San Pedro Sula when we claimed responsibility for the settling of accounts with Kevin Regalado Weinzemblut, son of the people's enemy, former Armed Forces Commander General Humberto Regalado Hernandez. The action was thwarted, perhaps by our lack of experience or because it was our first heroic action, but it was nevertheless our baptism of fire. We hereby notify the local and international community we are now in Tegucigalpa and—after surveying its topography, streets, and avenues—we will carry out a surprise action to punish the enemies of our people, the violators of the most essential human rights.

The armed action carried out in San Pedro Sula was thwarted but it does not discourage us. Quite the contrary, we believe a failure is always followed by a victory, and this will undoubtedly be the case.

We salute and applaud the heroic settling of accounts carried out by the Morazanista Patriotic Front against Eduardo Pina van Tuyl, the people's enemy. The action was carried out on schedule at 1930 on 8th Street in the Moderna housing area, San Pedro Sula.

We state we do not care that Humberto Regalado H., a well-known enemy of our people, has minimized our importance as an armed group, given our actions and how we communicate with our people.

We do care that our importance in the nation's life will be determined by the success of our future actions. We will claim responsibility for our actions after they have been carried out, once we guarantee our withdrawal.

This communique is authentic if it carries a seal that reads: Honduras, for which we struggle, ready to pay with our own lives for our actions, if necessary.

Honduran people, everyone onward, victory is ours.
[Signed] "LA MORA"

Journalists Condemn 'Intimidation' of Colleague

PA0802214093 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 8 Feb 93 p 34

[Communique issued by the Central Board of Directors of the Honduran Journalists Association, CPH, in Tegucigalpa on 5 February]

[Text] In response to the unfortunate incidents that have taken place in San Pedro Sula, the Central Board of Directors of the Honduran Journalists Association [CPH] issues the following statement:

1. We repudiate and condemn the coercion against and intimidation of journalist Eduardo Coto and the newspaper TIEMPO.

2. Our colleague Eduardo Coto, as well as TIEMPO, can count on our solidarity and support in everything concerning their security and the defense of freedom of speech.

3. We urge the proper authority to clarify once and for all the origin of the coercion and intimidation against journalists and the media and to set an example by punishing those responsible.

4. We are on the alert and reiterate our unconditional support for journalist Eduardo Coto and the TIEMPO newspaper.

[Issued] Tegucigalpa, 5 February 1993
[Signed] CPH Central Board of Directors

Nicaragua

Chamorro Warns of 'Extremist' Maneuvers

PA0802225393 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 8 Feb 93 pp 1, 8

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro warned Nicaraguans about maneuvers being planned by the extremist wing of the group now called the Political Opposition Alliance

(APO), which will try to provoke the police on Sunday, 28 February, in an antigovernment demonstration they will stage in Managua.

The divided alliance intends to open a sea of blood on the streets of Managua in an attempt to repeat the massacre staged by the National Guard on 22 January 1967 on what used to be called Roosevelt Avenue.

On that occasion the National Guard criminals murdered some 300 people out of 30,000 who were participating in a march led by politicians against the Somozist dictatorship.

Noting the incidents of 1967, the president asked the APO extremists to refrain from demonstrations that could lead to violent acts because the mandate given to deputies by the voters was to draft laws at the National Assembly and not to provoke the country's destabilization.

President Violeta Chamorro also told the APO Cesarists [followers of former National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar] about her willingness to hold a dialogue, which they have refused indicating they want to lead the country into confrontation. She said if the confrontation actually occurs, the Cesarist deputies would be the first to leave the country.

The divided coalition originally had 51 deputies in the National Assembly. There are only about 35 now and they spend their time following around Alfredo Cesar, former member of the national directorate of the Nicaraguan Resistance, like little dogs. The group is smaller now because many of them withdrew from the "aggressive" activities of the Cesarist group.

Certain international news agencies on 7 February reported remarks by President Violeta Chamorro, who said the criminal Somozist National Guard no longer exists, but there are different armed groups now.

National Opposition Union Holds Rally in Leon

PA0802225093 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 8 Feb 93 pp 1, 12

[Article by Guillermo Cortes Dominguez]

[Text] Leon—At the end of a rally on 7 February, Virgilio Godoy Reyes, vice president of the Republic who is not in office, said the National Opposition Union [UNO] is not preparing a bloodbath for 28 February.

Godoy blamed unscrupulous reporters paid "by government agencies" for rumors to that effect. He also termed the reporters who had mistakenly reported that UNO had changed its name as government mercenaries.

He alerted the deputy director and owners of LA PRENSA so they will not become "accomplices" of the "blackmails" and "lies," and he insisted that "the UNO will continue being the UNO."

Nonetheless, he said that on 28 February his coalition will celebrate the third anniversary of the electoral victory "so that the lady will understand she made a mistake and the program she had to follow was the UNO program and the Bambana Agreements."

The vice president said there are two individuals in Nicaragua who cause great destabilization, referring to General Humberto Ortega and Engineer Antonio Lacayo.

"Traitor Violeta, your time is up," was the main slogan shouted during the march, which even wiped out the main topic proposed by the organizers, to demand that a plebiscite be held "to consult the people if they want the president to complete her elected term."

People of Leon Did Not March

Dr. Godoy called on the demonstrators to shout with him "No more dictatorship" and "Enough cogovernment," and asked if the demonstrators wanted the Sandinists, the Center Group, or the military, to which they replied no.

The demonstrators filled half a block (Leon size). They were accompanied by a group of folk musicians and three young men who constantly set off firecrackers to the crowd's delight.

The first speaker in San Juan Plaza, Dr. Cairo Manuel Lopez, declared the president a traitor and accused her government of being corrupt and demanded a plebiscite.

Although there were only a few hundred people in the park, Dr. Lopez said there were over 10,000 people present. Dr. Godoy seemed to agree with the Social Christian deputy because when he referred to the turnout he said "this is just a hint of what there is to come."

Most of the demonstrators were transported in three trucks, several station wagons, and even a bus from communities near Leon, including Nagarote. However, as they walked the streets many of the people from Leon left the march and stood on the sidewalk outside their homes, while others lifted their hands in support of Dr. Godoy.

Former Comptroller Guillermo Potoy was presented and the Radio Dario announcer called him "the most honest man in Nicaragua."

Leal on Extradition of Former Official

PA0902031993 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Feb 93 pp 1, 7

["Exclusive" interview with Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal by correspondents Pedro Joaquin Chamorro and Jose Joaquin Cuadra in Managua; date not given]

[Text] [Quadra] Do you think the government has been weakened by the recent charges made by former Deputy Presidency Minister Antonio Ibarra?

[Leal] I do not think the government has been weakened by Ibarra's charges at all. He leveled a series of charges that, if they are as true as he says, he will have to prove here before Nicaraguan justice. His statements are close to outright lies and are clearly ill-intended. The important thing is that the government has made a commitment and we have precise instructions to pursue the request for his extradition to the limit.

[Quadra] Would this affect Nicaraguan credibility abroad?

[Leal] I do not think so because his accusations are ridiculous, and Tony Ibarra is notorious for fabricating these sorts of charges.

[Chamorro] Can the government prove those charges are false, to protect its credibility?

[Leal] Perfectly. The government's interest to bring him back shows his charges are false. If everything Ibarra is saying were true, I do not think the government would be interested in bringing him back. We are going to take every legal step possible to get Ibarra to submit to Nicaraguan justice. He committed an offense here, and he must be tried. He is trying to put up a smoke screen to hide everything he has done in Nicaragua. The best proof that his statements are false is that we are seriously seeking to extradite him, from wherever he may be, and bring him to trial.

[Chamorro] The government's strong commitment to bring Ibarra to Nicaragua in some way vindicates the stance by former Comptroller General Guillermo Potoy, who uncovered the case and practically submitted all the evidence that the government is using to request the extradition. Can you comment on this?

[Leal] The request the president sent to the National Assembly regarding the former comptroller is based on his conduct, which under our criteria was at odds with how a comptroller should act. A comptroller is someone who must not hold news conferences or make statements to the public and who must ask to be legally punished whenever it has been proven he committed an offense.

In Costa Rica, for example, the comptroller is not seen making statements when he discovers an offense, which means the comptroller here had political motivations. The comptroller must be a person qualified for the job, without political commitments to any party. That is the image that we have of the comptroller, someone who has no political motivations.

[Quadra] Mr. Leal, what would happen if Ibarra is taken to the United States?

[Chamorro] If he is, we would have to make a legal assessment of the situation. The government would request his immediate extradition, considering we have a bilateral extradition treaty with that country. According to international law, we can legally request the extradition of someone who has committed an offense in Nicaragua.

[Quadra] How would the Nicaraguan Government react if Ibarra were to appear before a U.S. Senate hearing?

[Leal] We would make a legal request through diplomatic channels for his extradition. A Nicaraguan court issued a warrant for his arrest, and whether he goes to the U.S. Congress or Senate has no bearing on this case.

[Chamorro] If the U.S. Government states it is protecting Ibarra because he is a citizen of that country, do you think it is motivated by any sort of political interest?

[Leal] I am not aware that there is any political interest in the matter. I can say, however, the fact he is a U.S. citizen does not have any legal implications, because we are talking about the extradition of a citizen from a third country. We are talking about two countries: Bolivia and Nicaragua. The offense was committed here, and the argument that he is a citizen of a third country is not valid.

[Chamorro] It seems there is a great deal of interest in this case on the part of the U.S. Government, because, according to international dispatches, U.S. Embassy employees in Bolivia are constantly entering and leaving Ibarra's residence.

[Leal] The U.S. Government has informed us that, since he is a citizen of that country, it wants his human rights and rights as a citizen to be respected, to have access to a lawyer, etc. We are not going to oppose that. We are guaranteeing he would be entitled to those rights.

[Chamorro] In hindsight, it would seem as if Mr. Ibarra has caused many problems for the government. Can you tell us who recommended him for that high post?

[Leal] When I joined the government in 1990, he was already deputy labor minister. I understand he was recommended by Alfredo Cesar.

[Chamorro] It seems Ibarra has many connections, including Mr. Cesar.

[Leal] He obviously must have them. In Cochabamba, he is a university professor. He has a defense lawyer. In sum, he must be a man who has been around in the world with a series of connections and friendships, and it may be that they are trying to protect him.

[Chamorro] How do you explain the government not realizing in time the sort of person he was?

[Leal] I do not believe one can immediately tell what sort of person one works with. One must take into account and not try and cover up that Tony Ibarra is a very cunning man; therefore, we did not realize we were working with a man that did not meet the honesty requirements to work in this government.

[Chamorro] Mr. Ibarra says he fears he may be murdered. Do you believe his fears are well founded?

[Leal] What Ibarra seeks are arguments with which to escape from justice. He will argue that they are trying to

murder him, that he may suffer a heart attack, that he has a bad kidney, any reason to try and hinder justice. We, however, are so serious that today the judge denied a writ of "Habeas Corpus" by his defense attorney.

[Chamorro] Could that be interpreted that Ibarra has one foot in the plane?

[Leal] These things are slow and take longer than usual, in addition to the false arguments he may use to try to break the law. The writ of "Habeas Corpus" denial is a good indication, however, a procedure that now goes before the Bolivian Supreme Court, which now has to decide.

[Chamorro] Leal, the effort the government is making to extradite Ibarra is commendable and surprising to certain sectors that believed that the government was not going to keep insisting on his extradition. Does this mean that for the government the political cost of having Ibarra in Nicaragua is less than having him walking around the corridors in Washington?

[Leal] I would prefer to say that regardless of the political cost, the government's objective is to have an honest government. To bring Ibarra back shows that whoever violates these principles of honesty will receive the full weight of the law.

Ibarra is even trying to involve the president in things that the government totally rejects and finds unacceptable, because everyone knows the prestige the president has. We are laying down a precedent in this government that whoever violates the law and is corrupt will be taken to trial.

[Quadra] Turning to another topic, Leal, the government is in a weak situation, facing problems in the National Assembly, in the Comptroller General's Office, and now with the Ibarra case. Has the time arrived for a change, for a different government strategy?

[Leal] I believe it is not a question of changing strategies. There is something that is sometimes misinterpreted and it is that we are committed to building and institutionalizing a democracy. For example, we are aware that the Constitution needs reforming, nevertheless, we know that we need at least 60 percent of National Assembly votes to partially reform it and a two-thirds vote to totally reform it.

These are reforms that range from changing the name of the Sandinist People's Army by seeking a consensus on a new name, to proposing draft laws that create required legal mechanisms to build democracy in our country. We are already working on an internal military law that will put a time limit on the Army commander in chief and permit transfer and promotion opportunities to military commanders.

We wish to propose a series of things that need to be discussed through dialogue as an undisputed base to build democracy.

It is for this reason political parties should also think of gathering those two-thirds; this government's goal and direction are correct; we are working for a democracy that will allow the president in 1996 to hand over the sash within a democratic, consolidated, and irreversible process.

Thousands of things have to occur, not only the constitutional reforms but a series of law reforms, but everything has as a common denominator a stable National Assembly that works similar to those in other countries. Nicaraguans do not have a democratic culture, instead it is more like a culture of violence that hinders and makes it difficult to attain and consolidate peace.

[Chamorro] This government has undoubtedly had very valuable people. Some of them were separated from their posts and they eventually became involved in a confrontation with the government. We remember [former Central Bank President Francisco] Mayorga, [former Central Bank President Silvio] De Franco, [former Deputy Economy Minister Noel] Vidaurre, and [former Deputy Presidency Minister Alejandro] Bolanos. Can you explain why such valuable people, whose appointments were considered correct at the time, became so disappointed they issued critical statements such as those that have been recently published?

[Leal] I do not believe it is necessarily a coincidence these people decided they would no longer render their services to the government. I believe it is a private matter in each case. The important thing is the Cabinet should strive to achieve democracy and its institutionalization because it is the Nicaraguan people's only opportunity to achieve this.

[Chamorro] What is your opinion of the UNO [National Opposition Union] faction leaders' decision not to participate in a dialogue with the president?

[Leal] I think it is an extremely grave mistake not to accept the president's invitation because it was an opportunity to discuss various topics with the president and the cabinet members. I was invited to the meeting and the government was willing to discuss practically any topic they would have desired.

This proves the president is willing to talk with all the UNO groups. Other invitations were previously issued to participate in a dialogue. I think it is an extremely grave mistake to miss this opportunity because it is detrimental to Nicaragua. Even in other countries the opposition groups participate in dialogues and talk with the government.

We are becoming involved in personal issues and an interest in publicity and party interests predominate over national interests. Nicaraguan history confirms this. That is why we have suffered all kinds of dictatorships.

It is time to change that mentality, participate in a dialogue. We must talk, find a solution to our dispute, and propose a solution to the problem.

[Quadra] Has the government lost its ability to summon all the parties?

[Leal] It is not a matter of being able to summon someone. The president invited the faction leaders and they seem to have no interest in discussing those issues of national interest. It is deplorable they made the mistake of not participating in the dialogue.

[Quadra] There is a tremendous polarization in the country, and it is worsened by a deep economic crisis, unemployment, and so on. What would be your proposal to abolish this polarization in our society?

[Leal] I think the president's invitation for a dialogue with the UNO deputies is a good start in the search for a national plan in which all the Nicaraguans would pledge to participate.

Political polarization will probably worsen as we approach 1996 because everyone will want to become a presidential candidate. This is a good time to start a dialogue; discuss current problems, even a legislative agenda; seek a consensus within the assembly; and change all the necessary things to establish democracy in the country.

Panama

Police Unit in Darien Increased; Coca Site Found

PA0802150893 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 8 Feb 93 p 1A

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] A new contingent of members of the state security forces on 7 February joined the Police Rapid Deployment Group (GERP) in Darien Province in the search for three members of New Tribe Religious Mission. In addition, it was learned that the United States began to provide air support to Operation "Free Border."

Although the exact number of personnel sent on 7 February to Darien was not specified, EL PANAMA AMERICA learned that over 25 men were sent to the area to join the GERP, which is currently combing the area of Pucuro.

Additionally, it was learned that helicopters of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed in the Panama Canal area are providing support to the Panamanian police, who for the past seven days have searched for missionaries David Mankin, Richard Tenenor, and Mark Rich.

Official reports reveal that police units continue to search unsuccessfully for the three missionaries, who are allegedly in the hands of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). This group may be working with Panamanian guerrillas.

So far the most important achievement of the operation in Darien was the discovery of a drug laboratory, the capture of two drug traffickers, and the arrest of 17 illegal aliens.

It was learned on the evening of 7 February, through a communique issued by the Presidency of the Republic, that during Operation "Free Border" a coca plantation was found. According to the communique, it is estimated that the coca plantation covers 90 hectares. The plantation, the communique states, "is located in an area near the Colombian border."

A reconnaissance patrol seized backpacks and some mosquito nettings in the area, which were presumably abandoned by alleged guerrillas.

It was also learned that Indians living in the area bordering Colombia are cooperating with authorities and have reported on the mobilization of armed men who are thought to be guerrillas.

It should be pointed out that the police who are in Darien will be replaced on 11 February by a new group. The GERP consists of over 200 units from the National Police, the Judicial Technical Police, and the Institutional Protection Service (SPI).

Police Discover Drug Laboratory in Darien

PA0802151193 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 6 Feb 93 pp 32, 47

[Report by Justino Gonzalez, Jr.]

[Text] National Police forces on 5 February raided a drug laboratory in Darien Province after a shoot-out and arrested two drug traffickers. A press bulletin issued by the Presidency of the Republic reveals police forces that have been involved since 1 February in the operation to rescue three U.S. missionaries kidnapped by Colombian guerrillas found the laboratory between Payita and Pucuro.

No one was injured during the clash. The captured drug traffickers were not identified. Four other drug traffickers who were at the laboratory fled into the dense jungle.

Security forces destroyed marijuana and cocaine fields discovered during the raid. The captured drug traffickers were placed at the disposal of the command post in El Real to be investigated by the Public Prosecutor's Office.

The laboratory was located in a remote mountainous area that made the police operation difficult.

There is no trace of missionaries David Mankin, Richard Tenenor, and Mark Rich, who were presumably kidnapped by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

The National Air Service and the National Maritime Service are involved in the operation, as well as patrols by special forces in mountainous areas at the Colombian border.

Argentina

Health Officials, Army Personnel Die in Crash

PY0802220493 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1600 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Excerpt] Salta, 8 Feb (TELAM)—Two doctors from the provincial Health Department died and three soldiers were seriously wounded when an Argentine Army helicopter assigned to the operations against cholera ran into a high-voltage cable this morning and practically cut in two fell in the Pichanal area, 24 km from Oran.

The dead doctors were identified as Ivonne Retamoso de Iniguez, director of the provincial Health Ministry Epidemiological Department, and her husband, Hector Iniguez, who was western region director in the struggle against cholera and took over command of this operation in Tartagal last November.

The wounded soldiers have been identified as Lieutenant Raul Betan, the helicopter's pilot; Gustavo Terreno, the co-pilot, who lost part of his brain and is in a coma; and mechanic Alvarez, who is in intensive care in the San Vicente de Paul Hospital in San Ramon de la Nueva Oran.

The Bell helicopter, registration EA 416, belongs to the 28th Mountain Regiment of Tartagal, 300 km from Salta. [passage omitted]

Bank Director, Agriculture Secretary Installed

PY0602122493 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 4 Feb 93 p 4

[Excerpt] During a ceremony presided over by Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo, Adelina Dalesio de Viola was installed as the new National Mortgage Bank president, and Felipe Sola as the new agriculture, livestock, and fishing secretary. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Interview With Interior Minister Saavedra

PY0802223093 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 1 Feb93 Section 2 p 5

[Interview with Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra by Mario Canipa Vargas; place and date not given]

[Text] [Canipa] The government said the main part of the EGTK [Tupac Katari Guerrilla Army] has been dismantled but it gave some indications that the loose parts of this organization are still active. To what degree are they a threat to the country?

[Saavedra] When we talk about terrorism and terrorists we think of the armed struggle and the risks involved, because it can mean a step back in the democratic process and the destruction of democracy as a political model accepted by Bolivians.

When we talk about terrorism, we talk about a well-structured organization that has the sole objective of taking power through violence. When we refer to this issue we talk about a large structure.

The EGTK was a group being organized for that objective. It had a very solid structure for guerrilla activities with economic resources, cells; it was actually very strong. It was growing because in two years it carried out 50 terrorist attacks in the country.

I am now convinced that, fortunately, the country is not running that risk and Bolivians really value that.

Let us look around at what is happening in the world, the violence prevailing in some countries around us. We should really feel fortunate.

The EGTK was almost completely dismantled. I would say that this group and its cells are not a threat to the country's democratic institutions.

[Canipa] But the type of violence used by this terrorist organization continues in the country.

[Saavedra] It is impossible to say that absolutely nothing will happen in a country of 7 million people and 1 million square kilometers. It is impossible.

It is true that explosive devices were discovered in the headquarters of a political party, in La Paz municipality, in the house of a television station owner. This worries the people, the police, and the security organizations. I hope we will find all the people responsible for the attacks. But I believe these attacks are not part of a solid structure. They are isolated events that are very difficult to detect.

For example, who put the bomb in La Paz municipality? I can assure you it was not the EGTK or an organized group.

It was a personal pamphlet that was left near the office of Mayor Julio Mantilla, and everyone can understand that these things are very difficult to detect. We would need to have a practically infallible police to detect that because thousands of people enter the municipality and only one of them is responsible for this isolated event.

I am sure the one who put the bomb in the municipality is not the same one who put another bomb in the MBL [Free Bolivia Movement] headquarters. There is no connection. They are isolated events.

[Canipa] Are five bombs in two weeks isolated events?

[Saavedra] They are isolated events, especially in an electoral process when they occasionally appear or, as you say, with some "regularity."

Our security organizations are carrying out a thorough investigation because we do not even want that to happen. But we cannot say that those very isolated

events of the last few months are putting the Bolivian state, the government of President Jaime Paz, or democracy at risk. No.

Another thing I would like to say is that we should differentiate things well because sometimes what we call terrorist attacks may be personal attacks or revenge against a specific person, against a party or an acronym, but not necessarily attacks by a structured terrorist organization.

[Canipa] A terrorist organization may not be the one planting the bombs but the attacks continue. The proof is the cases you mentioned, which shows that planting bombs is becoming a habit in Bolivia.

[Saavedra] It is possible that it is becoming a habit but this is the right time for it. At the beginning of 1989, before the general elections, several bombs exploded.

We remembered with Oscar Eid that bombs exploded that year in El Alto in the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] offices and in the offices of other parties.

I would say this is not a habit; they are very isolated events that are not a threat to people.

The bomb in the municipality was to frighten people but not to cause any damage.

[Canipa] And if it had exploded?

[Saavedra] No way it could have exploded. There was dynamite, a clock, and a fuse in the package left in the municipality, but they were not connected. In other words, there was not even a remote possibility of the bomb exploding.

The one who put it there did it so that it would not explode but would create an impact or impression.

[Canipa] Maybe the EGTK was dismantled but that does not guarantee there will be no violence. There has been a lot of talk in the last few months about foreign terrorist groups in the country, the Peruvians for example.

[Saavedra] One would have to ask why foreign groups would come to Bolivia. For example, the presence of the Shining Path in Bolivia may be true, but for what purpose?

The purpose of these groups is to take power through armed struggle, but the Shining Path was not even able to take power in Peru. It is having problems in its own country, and I do not see any reason why it would move to another country to open a new front when it has not even consolidated its struggle in its own country.

We discussed this a great deal during a seminar on terrorism organized by the Interior Ministry about six months ago. There are no indications it is here.

It would be naive to say this group will never come to Bolivia, but there are currently no indications of its presence here.

Peruvian security organizations never alerted us with words like "watch out Bolivia." If a plan to enter Bolivia existed, the Peruvians would have that information because many members of that organization have been arrested in Peru, but we were never told of any risk to Bolivia.

[Canipa] During that seminar discussions also were held on some similarities between Bolivia and Peru, and the conclusion was reached that there is a great deal of poverty in Bolivia and social discontent exists. Is this not a reason for more terrorist groups to appear?

[Saavedra] Not at all. There may social discontent, but the nature of the Bolivian people should be analyzed. Historically, Bolivians do not like violence. They live in peace and that has been their nature for decades.

I do not see a situation like that. Bolivians are peaceful, and we are not concerned that more terrorist groups will appear.

For example, two people were recently arrested for writing some "graffiti" on walls in support of the Maoist Peruvian revolution and against President Alberto Fujimori.

We released them because they were not dangerous and also because they promised to show good conduct. They represent the Maoist groups in the country. They declared themselves Maoists who are the most extreme in support of a revolution.

Chile

Vargas Denies Reports of Arbitration Suggestion

PY0602173593 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 28 Jan 93 pp C1, C6

[Excerpts] Acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas yesterday denied that, in his unexpected visit to Santiago, Argentine Foreign Relations Secretary Fernando Petrella told him the Chilean Government should be the one to request arbitration in the Southern Continental Glaciers case.

Vargas gave this information to this newspaper after being asked about this point, in response to reports released on the matter.

When pressed, Vargas was adamant in denying Petrella's reported proposal that Chile should unilaterally request the arbitration in this case, although he said that during the two-hour meeting with the Argentine official they talked about that issue, among other things, and analyzed the different alternatives to solve the conflict definitively. One of the possibilities provided for in the

1984 Peace and Friendship Treaty is that of submitting the conflict to arbitration by outstanding jurists. [passage omitted]

Petrella's presence in Chile caught the attention of the news media, although it was not possible to obtain a complete version of everything discussed by the two officials. Petrella arrived on 26 January and left the country yesterday at noon.

According to what Petrella told this newspaper, his presence in Santiago complies with the need to discuss the Argentine desire to join the UN Security Council. However, observers noted that this issue is usually treated more at the level of diplomatic representatives in New York and that this matter by itself would not move an Argentine deputy foreign minister to make a brief visit to our country.

Vargas said they reviewed six or seven issues, among them the Southern Continental Glaciers. [passage omitted]

Denies Production of Nuclear Weapons

PY0602024793 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 30 Jan 93 p C4

[Excerpt] Acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas has categorically denied that Chile is manufacturing chemical and nuclear weapons, adding that on the contrary, our country has permanently advocated the prohibition of such weapons.

"The Chilean position is absolutely unambiguous, and so is our commitment to the cause of the total and definitive elimination of those weapons, which we do not have," Vargas said.

He said that as far as he knows, neither the previous nor the current government has ever intended to produce chemical or nuclear weapons, and that the National Nuclear Energy Commission budget has never included allocations for military research.

He added that Chile's sole two "modest" reactors have been used only for doing research in the areas of food and energy. [passage omitted]

Reports on Negotiating Commission

PY0602025293 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 30 Jan 93 p C2

[Excerpt] Acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas yesterday reported that a Chilean-Peruvian Negotiating Commission has been established to analyze ways in which the pending clauses of the Treaty of Lima of 1929 will be complied with.

He added that the commission will also address matters dealing with Chinchorro Hill and the satellite station [not further specified].

The creation of the commission was agreed upon by the Chilean and Peruvian foreign ministers, Enrique Silva Cimma and Oscar de La Puente respectively, during de la Puente's visit to our country at the beginning of January. [passage omitted]

'Better Than Ever' Ties With Bolivia Noted

PY0602023493 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Report by Rafael Illanes]

[Text] Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma has said: It is a categorical fact that Chilean-Bolivian ties are better than ever. Silva Cimma addressed the issue in response to journalists' questions about recent statements made by his Bolivian colleague Ronald MacLean, who recently described as a sign of hope the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies' decision to back the opening process toward Chile promoted by the government headed by President Jaime Paz Zamora. In addition, MacLean said this vote represents the failure of an anachronistic 100-year old policy of belligerence.

Foreign Minister Silva Cimma assessed this statement and discussed the future of Chilean-Bolivian ties.

[Begin recording] [Silva Cimma] It is a categorical fact that our ties with Bolivia are today at an optimum level. They are better than ever.

[Unidentified reporter] What lies ahead in the future of Chilean-Bolivian ties?

[Silva Cimma] We can expect to have the best and most fruitful bilateral ties; and as was reported by some newspapers today, this has been made evident in the Bolivian Congress for the first time. They are correct in making this assessment, because unlike what has happened in the past, for the first time the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies has expressed its support for the work that my colleague, Ronald MacLean, is carrying out regarding Chile.

Moreover, I believe it is highly praiseworthy and satisfactory that for the first time the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies is viewing the issue of Chilean-Bolivian ties with such a different and fruitful perspective. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Silva Cimma also noted the importance of the Santa Cruz meeting.

Army Denies Alleged Influence in Voting

PY0502170593 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 23 Jan 93 p 4

[Text] "To presume the exercise of influence based on alleged friendship is absolutely groundless," the Army stated yesterday in a communique, referring to reports that General Augusto Pinochet, the Army commander in chief, reportedly called some opposition senators to

influence the decision prior to the vote on accusations of violations of the Constitution.

The text of the communique reads as follows:

"Concerning reports released today (yesterday) that the Army Commander reportedly called senators prior to the vote on accusations of violations of the Constitution against members of the Supreme Court of Justice, the Army Communications Department states:

"1. The Chilean Army and its members, respectful of current laws, have not meddled in the decisions adopted by members of the Senate.

"2. Moreover, current relations between the commander in chief of the Army and the honorable senators who cast their negative votes are strictly within the framework of formality and respect that must exist among officials of the country, and for this reason, to presume the exercise of influence based on alleged friendship is absolutely groundless."

Bill Promoting Indigenous Peoples Approved

PY0602024193 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 28 Jan 93 p 14

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies has unanimously approved a bill for the protection, promotion, and development of indigenous peoples. The bill was submitted yesterday to the Senate.

The bill, which was modified in some of its articles, sets forth that in order to obtain a subsidy for the purchase of land, different rules will apply to persons and communities. A person's rights will be measured by his savings, while in the case of a community, in addition to the requirements for individuals, community age and number of members will be taken into account.

The bill also provides for the creation of a Fund for Indigenous Land and Water, which will be managed by the National Indigenous Development Corporation.

National Renewal Party Deputy Teodoro Ribera has emphasized the incentive that the bill gives to indigenous languages and to language history and culture. In addition the bill provides for a bilingual education system in densely populated indigenous areas, thus allowing members to live in their own society and in the national society as well. [passage omitted]

State of Trade, Relations With U.S. Viewed

PY0802153793 Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 23 Jan 93 p 16

[Excerpt] Business leader Fernando Aguero is in the United States heading the private sector's talks on the free trade agreement. He stated that there must be a delay of at least three months to allow Bill Clinton's administration to settle down prior to outlining the way in which Chilean-U.S. trade relations will go.

He highlighted the fact that in the medium term "prospects are positive, because I believe that Clinton, like Bush, wants to forge ahead and achieve, through his government, a free trade agreement with Chile."

He also pointed out that former and current U.S. administrations have noted that before negotiating with Chile it is necessary to fully complete the negotiations with Mexico. It is therefore improbable that any important events will occur this year, but they will emerge in 1994.

The Santiago Chamber of Commerce has indicated that our country follows the U.S. process of electing a new administration with a certain level of concern because of the pending issues (such as the free trade treaty and the case of the poisoned grapes). There was a belief that the outcome to these issues could differ according to the party that came to power. The chamber indicated that although Clinton will give priority to internal affairs, there have been signs that Chile can rest assured over its relations with the United States.

It is understood that Democratic Party Senator Tom Harkin gave President Patricio Aylwin a letter from the current U.S. president in which he outlines the great importance of relations between the two countries and reaffirms the commitment of the Bush administration for having signed a free trade treaty. [passage omitted]

Interview With Arms Manufacturer Carlos Cardoen

PY0802210093 Santiago LA NACION in Spanish 31 Jan 93 pp 4, 5

[Interview with businessman Carlos Cardoen by Eduardo Rubilar—place and date not given]

[Text] Carlos Cardoen Cornejo, one of the richest men in Chile, studied in the United States and has been an executive for U.S. business firms in Chile for years. He currently maintains good relations with the military. He also maintains good relations with many who oppose the military. Beside the well-known pictures of him shaking hands with Saddam Husayn, in his luxurious office, decorated with antique weapons and original documents written by Miguel Carrera [Chilean chief of state from 1811 to 1813], Cardoen keeps three volumes with national and foreign newspaper articles about him in which he is accused of nearly everything.

Although journalists are not his favorite people, he is one of the best-known Chileans both domestically and abroad for being the first private businessman to manufacture weapons for export. He has pending lawsuits in the United States and maintains businesses in Cuba, and he says this subject has worn him out.

[Rubilar] You said in 1991 that the Macul bomb factory had been decommissioned but that it would maintain a "latent" military capacity.

[Cardoen] Yes, it is still like that. The objective is not to destroy a capacity that cost a lot of money to develop and complies with a security objective. Self-supply is a final objective for any air force that wants weapons that will allow it to maintain its efficiency. We are considering whether to preserve this patrimony or if we will pass it to the government in the future.

[Rubilar] What businesses currently link you with Iraq?

[Cardoen] None.

[Rubilar] Would you say that none of your personnel are currently in Iraq?

[Cardoen] Absolutely none.

[Rubilar] Why is your name again connected with arms deals with Baghdad?

[Cardoen] In the past we maintained trade relations. The Matrix Churchill company used to belong to the Iraqi Government. We were contracted to install an industrial plant in Baghdad; we were asked to buy some kind of machine tools from Matrix Churchill, which we did. We complied with the contract, and we sent our exports from England to Iraq with the British Government's approval. There has been no triangular operation, nor problems with the British Government. Everything that has been said about our operations with the son of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher or about other operations is absolutely false. Even though we delivered the machine tools we still have a pending discrepancy with them. The Iraqi Government has not paid for them.

[Rubilar] Did you inform the British Government about the deliveries?

[Cardoen] Matrix Churchill was in charge of exporting and giving the information. Of course they did it, because several Matrix Churchill executives were tried and found not guilty.

[Rubilar] Did you inform the Pentagon?

[Cardoen] That is an even bigger stupidity.

[Rubilar] I did not say it; it is what several expert journalists have said.

[Cardoen] I have never told the Pentagon anything, ever. I am a Chilean citizen. To inform the Pentagon would be an act of treason toward my country. It belongs to a foreign world power. In the past we were absolutely clear about what we did. We informed the public of all our activities through the media. Everything was authorized by the Chilean Government through the corresponding agencies. We had authorization for every single item we exported. Now, if the Pentagon learns of what we do through the newspapers, that is something else.

[Rubilar] Haven't U.S. officials ever come to talk with you to try to prevent you from making deals with Iraq?

[Cardoen] People or journalists sometimes resort to evil means to sell books or news. We have no relations with the Pentagon, I have never had relations with it, and I do not accept pressure by U.S. officials to inform them. If I had, I currently would not be in this controversy with the greatest world power.

[Rubilar] Haven't other intelligence services who oppose the Americans also approached you?

[Cardoen] No, I can only mention the Americans.

[Rubilar] Then, the charges against you in the Chilean media, in books, in the international media, are the result of a CIA operation?

[Cardoen] I do not know who is responsible for it, but my name sells books, news, and newspapers. The thing is that I am not a typical businessman. I made things with bravery. I dared to make things that brush the interests of great companies and countries. Businessmen try to get involved in activities that do not give them problems. I am not scared of problems. Threats do not scare me. That is how you are a leader, without being afraid.

[Rubilar] By selling weapons?

[Cardoen] By selling weapons, fruit, matches, aluminum, and intelligence.

[Rubilar] You are currently investing in Cuba. Why Cuba now?

[Cardoen] We Chilean businessmen have made a significant contribution to our national economic development. I think it is our obligation to seek the fields in which our companies may attain new levels, not only with fruits and copper, but also with added or pure intelligence. One of the ways is to teach another country how to do things. We currently do not have investments in Cuba, but we have a fruit-growing assistance service to transform their oranges and grapefruits into exportable produce to the EEC. I arrived in Cuba seeking medical assistance for my wife, which turned out successfully, and Cuban Government officials suggested this business to me. In two years we began to successfully export fruits to Europe.

[Rubilar] Are you friends with Fidel Castro?

[Cardoen] We have the relation of a supplier with a client. I feel great admiration for him.

[Rubilar] Aren't you concerned that Fidel nationalized all the industries 30 years ago?

[Cardoen] Growth and development must be carried out with pragmatism. Political issues are not my business. I have the authorization, and the moral and political support, of the Chilean government for this. We, together with other Chilean businessmen, are opening new doors and directions for Cuba. Whatever Fidel Castro does with his political activity is his business or that of political analysts. I am a businessman who is

solving a problem in two countries. I think intelligence cannot be appropriated, and I am selling intelligence. I have been the first businessman there and when I saw that there now are many others who have followed me, it gave me confidence that I am on the correct path. We are seeking a path that, even though the Americans do not like it, is useful for Chile.

[Rubilar] Can't you see that your public image is bad?

[Cardoen] Well, I am not Julio Iglesias. I am a businessman. The public image issue is my business. If I were worried about my public image I would have been a movie actor or a singer.

[Rubilar] During the military regime, you made money by selling weapons. You currently are making money by selling technology to Cuba. Isn't there a contradiction in that?

[Cardoen] Not in the least. I am pragmatic. I make what is convenient for my country and what it authorizes me to do. If I intended to change the direction of the world, I would have dedicated myself to politics rather than business.

[Rubilar] Don't you plan that?

[Cardoen] ... No.

[Rubilar] During the legal investigation you were mentioned as the person British journalist Jonathan Moyle was investigating when he was murdered in the Carrera Hotel in 1990.

[Cardoen] I did not know him. His presence in Chile was ill-intentionally linked with our helicopter. We would have been the first to show it finished. The presence of journalists to see our helicopter never bothered us.

[Rubilar] Moyle came to investigate the weapon transactions with Iraq. You carried out many transactions.

[Cardoen] Many. But those interested in placing an obscure mantle on our activities are ill-intentioned people or people who serve interests that want to make us appear as if we carried out obscure maneuvers. Our government officials know everything about our transactions. In Chile you cannot export, not even by night, without authorization or an export registry. Everything we do is registered.

[Rubilar] Some time ago Chilean aeronautics officials said your Cardoen Bell 206L-III helicopter is really no good and that it does not have enough technical capacity to fly.

[Cardoen] Well, that would mean contradicting the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration certificates that state it has all the characteristics to receive the certificates. The aircraft was designed with its approval; we made an agreement so its engineers could supervise the transformation. The FAA authorized its flight, approved its capacity, and then asked us to transport it to the United States, where it passed all the tests. It was then confiscated by the FAA itself, although it had certified that the helicopter is not only viable from an aerodynamic point of view, but its commercialization inside the United States was also authorized. Ever since, the U.S. Department of State has filed charges in court to withhold it, just like in the case of the poisoned grapes, overruling legal dispositions that are preventing us from selling a product or a good without ever having raised charges.

[Rubilar] You were seen in La Moneda Government House on one occasion in March 1992. Do you feel you are being supported by the Chilean Government?

[Cardoen] I frequently go to La Moneda to inform the government about what is happening. The obstruction by the U.S. Government before the courts must be halted through pressure from our country and officials. I have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Government before different courts, but they interfere in justice in such a way that they do not let the whole project acquire validity.

[Rubilar] When do you think it will be obsolete?

[Cardoen] It already must be obsolete. There already must be some other people developing the same project in the United States. I am sure.

[Rubilar] Did the Chilean Government promise you anything?

[Cardoen] The Chilean Government is issuing good signals because it is coming to understand the problem more and more. It is a delicate matter and government authorities must be cautious. It is facing a slightly unrealistic possibility: the free trade treaty, and this causes the government to be cautious. Thus, U.S. authorities are pressing and they are preventing our authorities from having a certain leeway to freely discuss the matter.

[Rubilar] Will the helicopter ever return to Santiago, or have you given it up for lost?

[Cardoen] Well, I believe that this is a Don Quixote-type struggle. I do not want to become known as the helicopter fool. I am a businessman. I know how to evaluate my possibilities. It is not the helicopter that is in play here; it is the dignity of countries. With this the United States abuses our freedom to overcome our underdevelopment by producing other products that are not raw materials, and thus not have us on our knees and dictate to us what we have to do while it flies the flag of freedom, something that I find incredibly cynical.

[Rubilar] Is it true your helicopter is not inoffensive, that it can be armed to perfection?

[Cardoen] Of course it can be armed and thus be transformed into a combat helicopter. The funny thing about all this is that it is a dual-purpose helicopter, but the helicopter we have achieved and manufactured is a fully civilian version. It has absolutely no fittings for weapons. But of course, the intention is to turn it into a

combat helicopter. Military helicopters are not approved by the FAA, and, therefore, it is ridiculous for it to say this is a military version. That will come in the second stage.

[Rubilar] Manufactured at one-third of its cost?

[Cardoen] Of course, maybe even at one-quarter of its cost. It would allow Third World countries to have a helicopter for civilian use, such as highway patrols, and also have the possibility of arming it when events demand it.

[Rubilar] Would you like to sell helicopters to the Air Force, which today buys them in the United States?

[Cardoen] I repeat: I am not struggling for the helicopter. I am struggling for the dignity of Chilean businessmen so they can produce what is convenient for the country without having to kneel before the United States.

[Rubilar] Have you acted openly with government authorities? Are they in the know regarding everything that you do?

[Cardoen] Absolutely. The National Directorate of National Mobilization in Chile controls everything that pertains to weapons.

[Rubilar] Did you ever have personal reservations regarding the sale of weapons. Are you a Catholic?

[Card?en] I do not mix things... (he breathes deeply and speaks slowly). I have manufactured weapons with a solid resolve of which I am not sorry and with which, I believe, I have made an important contribution to my country, and to Third World countries in general. I believe that the responsibility regarding the use of weapons does not lay with he who manufactures them, but with those who use them. If not, ask the North Americans about the bomb attacks against Iraq.

[Rubilar] And the bombs that rained down on Iran, don't you feel responsible?

[Cardoen] I am not going to answer that question.

[Rubilar] Do you see an auspicious future for the sale of weapons? Will you return to that business?

[Cardoen] I believe I have exhausted myself regarding this m??ter. I have a lot of other important things to do. I have not manufactured weapons for the last four years.

Colombia

Hommes Announces Increased Funds for Security

PA0702133793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0030 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Report by Juan Roberto Vargas from the governors' summit in Yopal, Casanares]

[Text] As he presented a report on the peace issue to the governors, the national chief executive said state security organizations will receive more than 1 billion pesos in 1993. Government accounts reflect the transfer of more than 300 billion pesos from the central budget, that is, ministries and decentralized organizations, to upgrade Army operational capability, police intelligence networks, and in general, equipment for the country's public force members.

[Begin Finance Minister Rudolf Hommes recording] An agreement was already reached with the prosecutor's office to grant them a 15.5 billion increase for their new actions and judicial [word indistinct], and so on. We are holding talks with the Defense Ministry to also increase the domestic security budget. [end recording]

In addition to the creation of units to combat extortion and kidnapping and three new mobile units, two new helicopter gunships for the Army, weapons, and supplies for the quartermaster corps will be purchased in the next three months and financed with resources that will no longer be invested in the central sector as a result of state reorganization.

In addition to the new resources the government announced on 6 February for the public force, the country's governors made a commitment to increase funds by nearly 40 percent in their own budgets to upgrade security in all regions of the national territory.

Governors Evaluate Cesar Gaviria Government

PA0702144793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0030 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] The governors of the country evaluated the President Cesar Gaviria administration. The governors said they received quick support from the central government for requested assistance, but they criticized the government's slow cooperation on social issues. These conclusions were reached by a "TV Today" newscast survey of the governors.

Eighty-six percent of the governors said they received government support when they requested assistance and the remaining 14 percent said they did not. Asked if the government fulfilled its promises on social matters, 14 percent believed it did, while the remaining 86 percent said only partially.

Sixty-six percent of the governors believed the government fulfilled promises on matters of security and support for public order, while 34 percent said only partially.

Finally, when asked if the government provided assistance in times of emergency, 60 percent said yes, 14 percent said no, and the remaining 26 percent said they have not had emergency situations in their departments.

Government Issues Communique on Concordat

PA0702182093 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Feb 93

["Text" of communique issued by Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin in Santa Fe de Bogota; date not given]

[Text] In view of the Constitutional Court ruling declaring unconstitutional certain articles of the Concordat signed in July 1973 between the Holy See and the Colombian Government and approved by means of Law No.20 of 1974, the Foreign Ministry states that since the ruling has not been officially announced, it does not have in its hands the elements to review the effects and implications of the ruling in question.

In November 1992 the Colombian Government and the Holy See signed an agreement aimed at reforming the Concordat of 1974 to make it compatible with the new Constitution. Such a process was characterized by cordial relations inspired by the goodwill of both sides and by the mutual respect that has distinguished them. The government will carefully review the observance of the Constitutional Court ruling to see if the reforms made to the Concordat in November 1992 are constitutionally compatible with the court ruling.

Once the government reviews the Constitutional Court ruling, it will seek a meeting with representatives of the Holy See and the Colombian Church to find the best road toward an appropriate and just legal system that can regulate the relations between the Catholic Church and the government.

The Colombian Government reaffirms its traditional position of respect and observance of public treaties and principles of international law.

Church Responds to Communique

PA0802190393 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Telephone interview with Monsignor Pedro Rubiano, president of the Colombian Episcopal Conference, by unidentified reporter—live]

[Excerpts] [Reporter] Monsignor Rubiano, good morning.

[Rubiano] Good morning, Dario, how are you?

[Reporter] Fine, thank you. A communique issued by the Presidency and the Foreign Ministry states that the national government, once it reviews the Constitutional Court ruling, will seek a meeting with representatives of the Holy See and the Colombian Catholic Church to find the best road toward a fair and appropriate legal regimen that can regulate relations between the Catholic Church and the state. What is the Colombian Church's response? As president of the Colombian Episcopal Conference, what roads should we take to resolve the serious problems that stem from the Constitutional Court ruling regarding the unconstitutionality of certain articles of the Concordat, which has been in force since 1973?

[Rubiano] Dario, I think we must first read the entire text of the Constitutional Court ruling to get a very clear and objective view before the church issues a statement. However, I am pleased with the statements made by Foreign Minister Noemi Sanin. The Concordat is a treaty between the Colombian Government and the Holy See. People sometimes say it is an agreement with the Vatican State. We have to be clear on that because the treaty was signed with the Holy See, which is subject to international law. Ambassadors are appointed to the Holy See. Credentials are presented to the Pope, and not to the Vatican State governor. It is a treaty in keeping with the Vienna Convention.

We are surprised at the Constitutional Court ruling. I am referring to Article 241, Paragraph 10 of the Colombian Constitution, which I believe is clear. The Court has six days in which it must issue a ruling on the constitutionality of treaties once they are signed. The article is telling us that it will have an effect upon treaties that are signed after the enactment of the 1991 Constitution.

Law No. 20 of 1974, which approves the Concordat as it has been determined by international norms, states that if some of the articles are not compatible with the new constitution they should be reformed out of mutual agreement.

That is what we had been doing in 1992 when the government asked the Holy See to review the articles of the Concordat that were not in keeping with the new constitution. That is just what was done. That is why we are surprised to see this kind of ruling being issued by the Constitutional Court, especially after certain religious sects filed lawsuits against the Concordat. As president of the Episcopal Conference, I challenged these lawsuits based on Article 241 of the Constitution, Paragraph 10. Another group filed a lawsuit later.

We resorted to the best constitutionalists and internationalists to challenge these lawsuits Colombia has a tradition of respect for the law that is very important. You have heard about it. Foreign ministers of all presidential terms and of all parties have spoken out and said they were surprised with the Court ruling. One of the magistrates said, however, that the treaty was handled differently. I believe that is unacceptable. It is an international treaty that should be handled as such. I heard Liberal Party leader Dr. Alberto Santofimio Botero talking about that position.

I repeat, we have to review the Constitutional Court ruling carefully. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Monsignor Rubiano, the Constitutional Court spoke out. Sixteen articles were struck down. What do we do now? Renegotiate the Concordat? Is the Church willing to facilitate a renegotiation?

[Rubiano] It will depend on the government because the government and the Holy See, which are the ones that signed the Concordat, must meet. The Court must explain the ruling to the government, and the government should in turn hold talks with the Holy See to explain what happened. A new horizon is being opened now, and we still do not know how it looks. I believe we have to handle this calmly. I will repeat something I have been saying all along. The Catholic Church, with or without a Concordat, is in the country's soul. It is in the soul of the people. It continues to carry out its mission, which means it is not limited by any ruling. The Gospel and the teaching of basic human values helps people live with dignity, and the church will continue doing it regardless of the Concordat. [passage omitted]

Army Kills Popular Liberation Army Leader

PA0802212393 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 8 Feb 93

[Text] Carlos Daniel Guerrero, who is considered the fourth in command of the EPL [Popular Liberation Army], was killed in the pre-dawn hours of 8 February by the Army. The guerrilla leader was accused of participating in several ambushes and of holding former Minister Argelino Duran Quintero during his kidnapping.

The bodies of Jaime Benito Parrado and Freddy (Jezith) Martinez, two investigators of the Apartado Prosecutor's Office, were also found on 8 February. They were allegedly kidnapped on 2 February by the EPL.

Paraguay

Officers Reportedly Arrested for Not Joining March

PY0502170093 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 5 Feb 93 p 2

[Text] Air Force Commander Brigadier General Jose Cespedes Zarza has allegedly ordered the arrest of five "Silvio Petirossi" Airborne Brigade captains who did not participate in the Colorado Party rally called the "Freedom March."

This information could not be confirmed even though NOTICIAS journalists went to the home of Brig. Gen. Cespedes in Luque, where we were told that the general was not available.

The names of the captains and their current situation is not known.

The opposition harshly criticized the participation of the military in the Colorado march, arguing that it is prohibited under the Constitution.

Members of the cavalry participated in the march with tanks and troops. The Air Force participated with Xavante airplanes and an airborne company, while the Navy participated with a platoon.

The Armed Forces commander in chief justified the military participation in the march by saying that it was not a party event but a national act of remembrance.

Armed Forces Participation Criticized

PY0502215693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 5 Feb 93 p 12

[Editorial: "The Participation of the Armed Forces in Political Acts"]

[Text] On 3 February the Armed Forces participated in a rally organized by the Colorado Party leadership. Although this rally, called the "Freedom March," was carried out to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the revolutionary movement that overthrew Alfredo Stroessner, it gained—despite the careful words used by its organizers—a partisan-political meaning totally contrary, exactly for this reason, to other political movements. There was no doubt about the meaning of the rally among the civilians who participated in this "Freedom March," nor was there any doubt among the public in general who watched it.

While words, though they may be sincere, might attempt to give it a different interpretation, the general feeling is that it was a political act. We are therefore faced with a very serious mistake by the Armed Forces.

As far as we remember—and if the interpretation of the act made by the people is correct—for the first time in history Paraguayan soldiers participated in a political act as an organization, and with national weapons in their hands. During Stroessner's regime it was common to recognize the existence of the "Government-Colorado Party-Armed Forces trilogy," considering it the sum of the real political power in the country. But not even then did this "trilogy" reach this point of visible and material expression, mixing in the same public act party members and military units. It is a paradox that they mixed in an act to commemorate the downfall of Stroessnerism and the recovery of freedom.

The participation by military forces in a political act certainly represents a transgression to the Constitution, which establishes the "professional, non-deliberative character" of the Armed Forces, and which in addition does not allow active duty military men "to carry out any kind of political activity."

Beyond the dispositions of the Constitution, other more serious negative aspects can be derived from this event, because of the repercussions it may have in the nation's collective feelings toward the Armed Forces and in the relations between the Armed Forces and the civilian government.

It can be understood that the main requisite and objective of the democracy we are attempting to institute is to establish an institutionally correct relationship between the government and the Armed Forces. Such a relationship has not existed in the country for many years, and it

is necessary for the Armed Forces and government to reach it, because if not, they will both be distorted. Neither the Armed Forces nor the civilian government will play their role.

What is therefore involved is a compelling national objective to clearly maintain the Armed Forces and politics as separate from each other as possible.

To link one with the other is a mistake, even if this is done inadvertently.

Venezuela

Foreign Minister on Brazilian Prospectors

PA0602161893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Report by Anerys Gonzalez]

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich has acknowledged the problem of Brazilian gold prospectors. He stated that illegal mining activities can only be eradicated if Brazil and Venezuela improve relations.

According to the Venezuelan foreign minister, attempts to end the illegal exploitation of minerals in Bolivar State have been positive. However, the remoteness of the area and the maneuvers used by Brazilian prospectors to enter our country create a difficult situation.

Despite those difficulties, military raids recently resulted in the arrests of 41 Brazilian prospectors, who will be tried for violating the Environment Law.

It appears that the problem is no longer the eradication of the prospectors from the area, but rather, to reach a satisfactory agreement with Brazil for a timely solution. A report published on 5 February by the national press highlights the statements by the candidate to occupy the post of Brazilian ambassador to Venezuela, who reportedly said that the Brazilian and Venezuelan military officers are interested in maintaining an atmosphere of confrontation. The Venezuelan Foreign Minister has requested a prompt explanation.

[Begin Ochoa Antich recording] Following the instructions of the president, I have instructed the Venezuelan ambassador to Brazil to obtain the official opinion of the Brazilian Government in order to determine if the statements attributed to the ambassadorial candidate of Brazil to Venezuela are true.

If these statements are true, the Venezuelan Government will study them and will adopt the corresponding diplomatic action. [end recording]

For the foreign minister, the Venezuelan Armed Forces must continue to eradicate the presence of Brazilian prospectors in Venezuelan territory, thereby exercising our national sovereignty.

Democratic Action Leaders on Party Future

PA0702150793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Feb 93

[Text] Some Democratic Action [AD] leaders are in favor of the renewal of their party, as they hope it will play a dominant and outstanding role in the December elections.

[Begin recording] [Federal District Governor Antonio Ledezma] The concept of renewal cannot be attributed to any one person. It is not a slogan prompted by the times, but an obligation from within the party. It is like people. Those who are not undergoing a constant renewal are doomed to perish intellectually. A party that wants to lead the country's fate must adapt itself to the new times. It must become familiar with the present and what the people want. Of course, its platform must be attractive to the interests of new generations.

[Carmelo Lauria] We have been (?shaken) and inspired. We have proposed to have unity and modernize the party so we can launch the party toward the 21st century based on those pillars. We must now act. That is the challenge. The problem is not to know how to say things, but to do things. I think a group of men and women who know how to do things is emerging from all walks of life. Our problem is what to do starting Monday; that is the challenge. That is when leaders will prove we can build an AD for modern times.

[Modesto Freire] AD was strengthened by this National Directive Committee meeting. It was an extraordinary meeting, where all of the party's leaders expressed their full commitment to strive with all their resources and efforts to win in 1993 and make all the reforms and changes necessary for our party to adapt to the new situation and remain in step with the sentiments and demands of the Venezuelan people. We are absolutely resolute and committed to work so AD will continue to be the party of the people. [end recording]

Guyana

Project for Multipurpose Development Signed

FL0402184793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1805 GMT 4 Feb 93

[Released to CANA by Guyana Public Communications Agency]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana (GPCA) [Guyana Public Communications Agency] February 3, 1993—A plan of operations for a U.S. 5.6 million dollars multi-purpose development project, being funded by the World Food Programme (WFP), was signed earlier this week. As its contribution, the Guyana Government will be providing U.S. 500,000 dollars in such areas as transportation and the distribution of the services to be under the programme.

The objective of the four-year programme is to boost agricultural production and to improve the living conditions for disadvantaged groups in urban and rural areas across the country.

Some 9,400 government workers and farmers will be involved in rehabilitation work to maintain sea defence embankments and drainage and irrigation systems to reduce flood damage and ensure a stable water supply. Another aspect of the agricultural component will facilitate the training of 300 of the participants in seed production and technology.

The WFP will be supplying 9,800 tonnes of wheaten flour over the life-span of the project. And as part of its support for community development 8,600 participants will be engaged in building or repairing communal infrastructure such as safe water facilities, health and community centres, and roads.

Additionally 4,000 unemployed young men and women participate in income-generating activities in craft production and other industrial work. Also, as part of the community development component, food supplements, and social services will be provided to 10,850 poor children, elderly people, the homeless, patients, and low-paid staff of public hospitals. Community groups, churches and other community development organisations are all going to be involved.

The project will be monitored by the World Food Programme (WFP), the Department of International Economic Cooperation (DIEC), and the Social Impact Amelioration Programme (SIMAP).

Eleven Angolans, One Liberian Seek Asylum

FL0602004893 Bridgetown CANA in English 2240 GMT 5 Feb 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 5, CANA—Guyana is still awaiting word from the Caracas office of the United Nations High Commmissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) before deciding what to do about 12 Africans seeking asylum here, Foreign Affairs Minister Clement Rohee said Friday.

Rohee told reporters that the government was treating the 11 Angolans and one Liberian as "illegal immigrants" and not as refugees.

"Basically, the position remains the same with respect to the Angolans," Rohee said.

UNHCR envoy Grete Silassen flew from her Caracas office two weeks ago to conduct almost three days of intensive interviews with the Africans, reportedly fleeing civil war in their countries. She is to give an advisory opinion on the Africans within days.

"It doesn't necessarily follow that if the UNHCR deems them refugees, that the Government of Guyana will coincide with the UNHCR," the foreign minister told reporters.

Six Angolans were discovered in Guyana between December 30 last year and January 8, this year. Five more, including a couple and their young son, turned up before January monthend. They said they entered the country via the Brazil border after stowing away on ships from Angola. They were followed two days later by a Liberian, also seeking asylum.

Rohee said he has not seen any "modicum of hysteria, or panic" among the security forces on the problem of persons slipping across the Brazil border into Guyana requesting asylum.

Suriname

Desi Bouterse Elected NDP Chairman

PM0402144693 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 1 Feb 93 p 3

[Unnamed "own correspondent" report: "Bouterse Leaves Army, Elected NDP Leader"]

[Text] Paramaribo, 1 Feb—Former Surinamese army commander Desi Bouterse was elected chairman of the National Democratic Party (NDP) on Saturday [30 January]. He was the only candidate for the post.

In an address immediately after his election Bouterse accused the Venetiaan government of allowing itself to be dictated to by the Netherlands and the United States. According to Bouterse, an economic reform program is being pushed through in order to make Suriname dependent on the Netherlands which "needs a hinterland for its products."

Bouterse fiercely opposed the government's plan to abolish 25 February, the Day of the Revolution, as a public holiday. A committee has been set up to organize celebrations. From today Bouterse is officially relieved of his military duties. He tendered his resignation in November last year after a conflict with the government.

In his speech on Saturday Bouterse said that his party "will maintain its links with the National Army." With its 12 seats the NDP is the largest opposition party in the Surinamese parliament. The party was set up in 1987 by Bouterse and others and has always been closely allied with the old army leadership.

In addition, Henk Herrenberg, for years Bouterse's closest aide and business partner, has announced that he is leaving Surinamese politics. The 54-year-old former journalist, ambassador, foreign minister, and principal private secretary will devote himself to writing the history of the "revolutionary movement" in Suriname. It is assumed that Herrenberg has lost support within the NDP.

Suriname National Party (NPS) chairman H. Arron announced yesterday that he will not stand for reelection in the NPS elections on 25 April. He gave no reason for his decision. It is not yet known whether Arron will stay

on as chairman of the New Front for Freedom and Democracy—the government coalition—and as adviser to the Venetiaan government.

Trade Unions Call General Strike for 10 Feb

PM0802165093 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 4 Feb 93 p 2

[Unnamed "own correspondent" report: "Surinamese Trade Union Movement Puts Government Under Pressure"]

[Text] Paramaribo, 4 Feb—The Surinamese trade union movement has called a general strike for 10 February out of dissatisfaction with the price increases in the country and the government's economic policy.

This was announced by the Council of Trade Unions (Ravaksur). Chairman I. Grep of the Moederbond trade union, which is affiliated with Ravaksur, described those traders responsible for the unbridled price rises as "enemies of society." The council is demanding a general wage increase of 53 percent.

The Surinamese civil servants' union, the CLO, has sent a separate ultimatum to the government demanding that it take measures by 27 February. "Otherwise the CLO will be at war with the government," union chairman H. Sylvester said at a protest demonstration in Paramaribo yesterday. The CLO also accuses "perfidious traders" of pushing up prices daily. The CLO is calling for salary increases, price controls, a campaign against corruption, and tax increases for the well off.

The trade unions blame the government for a lack of decisiveness. The government has started to implement a "structural reorganization program" to bring the economy out of the doldrums, but up to now effective measures have failed to materialize.

A wildcat strike at the Suralco bauxite company ended yesterday after talks with Natural Resources & Energy Minister H. Pollack. The contents of the talks were not made public. The around 1,300 strikers had reduced their original demand of a 400-percent wage increase to one of 100 percent.

Meanwhile, a conflict has arisen inside the trade union movement about the government involvement of the Surinamese Labor Party (SPA). Moederbond chairman I. Grep has said that he has "difficulty" that as well as being Ravaksur chairman F. Derby is also chairman of the SPA. CLO chairman Sylvester is a member of the SPA executive. Around half a dozen member unions have threatened to leave the Moederbond in protest at Grep's remarks.